

Hafa Adai!

Burglary at Family Outlet store in Gualo Rai. **PAGE 2**

Leyda Ada denied early release anew. **PAGE 3**

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'Task force is working with airlines on reopening plan'

» **Palacios: Tourism industry's comeback is still a moving target**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres disclosed Thursday that he has a task force specifically assigned to work with airlines as part of the government's plan to reopen the tourism industry.

This developed as Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios stated that the administration is aggressively planning for the tourism industry's comeback, but that they can't cite a specific date just yet.



Torres



Palacios

See **TASK** on **Page 4**

Torres slams DPW for alleged misrepresentation

» **Lawyer raises concerns over Airport Road project**

By **IVA MAURIN**
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CORRESPONDENT

Former attorney general Robert T. Torres, on behalf of the Torres family, is raising several concerns about the proposed road improvements of Route 35, or Chalan Tun Herman Pan Road (formerly Airport Road), and is appealing to the Division



Torres

See **TORRES** on **Page 4**



EGGCELSIOR

Children and their family race to collect as many eggs as they can find at the Rotary Club of Saipan's Easter Egg Event last Saturday, April 4. The Easter Egg Hunt divided participants into four groups (toddlers, preschool, elementary, and middle school) to hunt within four different segments of the Sugar King Park field, each containing their own golden, silver, and bronze eggs. With over 2,000 eggs scattered on the field, and a variety of prizes hidden within their shells, everyone was able to go home with something for Easter. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

CUC, CPA still in talks on lease for 1.5MW power plant



By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The managements of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the Commonwealth Ports Authority

See **CUC** on **Page 4**

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. acting executive director William Gilmore, left, and CUC legal counsel assistant attorney general Jose Mafnas conduct a presentation last Wednesday before the Commonwealth Ports Authority board's Airport Facilities Committee about their ongoing negotiation with CPA's management to lease CPA's property for CUC's 1.5 megawatt power plant.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

AT A GLANCE

As of 5pm, April 5, 2021

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	7,816	7	7,823
Recovered	7,649	7	7,656
Active	24	7	31
Deaths	136	0	136
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	142,690		

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	159	0	159
Traced via Travel Screening	123	0	123
Traced via Community Screening	36	0	36
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	26,131*		
Days since last community transmission	20		

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI		
Saipan:	Tinian:	Rota:
Dose 1: 15,665	Dose 1: 953	Dose 1: 944
Dose 2: 11,249	Dose 2: 659	Dose 2: 735

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

INSIDE



NATION

The trial in George Floyd's death is expected to turn toward the police officer's training.

PAGE 12



ASIA

Anti-coup demonstrators in Myanmar take to the streets holding painted eggs.

PAGE 13



LIFE & STYLE

The drama "The Trial of the Chicago 7" takes the top prize at the Screen Actors Guild Awards.

PAGE 15



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Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

SECOND AMENDMENT
NOTICE OF THE MEETING OF THE
CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios through the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials meeting will be held on **Thursday, April 8, 2021, 9:00AM** at the Governor's Main Conference Room, Juan A. Sablan Memorial Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan.

Due to the ongoing threat of COVID-19 and to ensure the health and safety of all, virtual public participation is highly encouraged via video conferencing through Google Meet (<https://meet.google.com/jtr-mtv-sgu>) or join via telephone by calling the DCRM office at (670) 664-8300 for connection assistance. Google Meet access code may change. Please call DCRM for an update.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Adoption of Agenda
- D. Adoption of March 19, 2021 Meeting Minutes

II. PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW

- 1) **CRM Permit Application No. SMS-2000-X-142-A1**
Project: ROUTE 35 ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
Applicant: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
The Department of Public Works is proposing to improve 0.78 mile length of Route 35 (Tun Herman Pan) Road which includes hazard elimination such as inclusion of guardrails, traffic signs, drainage improvements, and pavement rehabilitation.
 - a. Agencies' Discussion
 - b. Agencies' Final Determination
- 2) **CRM Permit Application No. SMS-2021-015**
Project: ROUTE 36 ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
Applicant: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
The Department of Public Works is proposing to construct road improvements along Route 36 Windward-Chalan Kalabera Road on the northeastern coast of Saipan. The proposed project will improve about 3.64 miles of the road as well as to replace two major drainage crossings, creating a continuous roadway connection with the Talofofo sector and the Marpi sector of Route 36.
 - a. Agencies' Discussion
 - b. Agencies' Final Determination

III. OTHER MATTERS

- 1) Adoption of Proposed Water Sports Regulations
- 2) Authorization for DCRM Director to promulgate proposed regulations

IV. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony regarding the above agenda items. (NOTE: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session).

/s/ JANICE E. CASTRO
Director, DCRM

Local

Burglary at Family Outlet store in Gualo Rai

On April 4, 2021, at about 1:05pm, the CNMI Department of Public Safety received a 911 call reporting a burglary and theft incident at the Family Outlet store in Gualo Rai. Police were dispatched to the scene.

At the scene, police met with the owner of the store who told police that several items were missing from the store, and they had surveillance footage of an unknown male individual inside the store. Based on surveillance footage the male individual was described as having a skinny build, was wearing a pair of long pants and a colored jacket with a skull print on the front, had on a mask and a hat, and had a sling

strap backpack. The incident took place at about 3:45am that morning.

According to the owner of the store, one of the employees opened the store at about 8:10am as they were about to do some renovations when they noticed that some items were missing. They immediately called their boss who called for police assistance.

After a quick inventory of the store, items reported missing include; one (1) orange-colored chainsaw, one green-colored, cordless 12v impact wrench, one blue-colored, heavy-duty cordless 12v impact wrench, one 53-piece miscellaneous toolset with a green case, one miscellaneous

toolset with a black and red case, one green-and-black-colored cordless reciprocating saw, one orange-colored 52 cc Gezhi brand brush-cutter and one roll of extension cord with a metal barrel that has about four electrical outlets.

If you or someone you know has been approached recently by any individual offering to sell you equipment matching the description we encourage you to call 911 immediately or, if you wish to remain anonymous, you may call the CNMI Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. Crime Stoppers pays up to \$1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. **(PR)**

Water service interruption in As Terlaje, Chalan Kiya, Chalan Laulau Beach Road and Middle Road

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that there will be an emergency water service interruption today, April 6, 2021, from 8:30am.

to 12:30pm in the areas of As Terlaje, a portion of Chalan Kiya (Apu Place and Kulot Di Rosa Drive), Chalan Laulau Middle Road from the

former Payless Shoe Source to Gualo Rai Road near the U.S. Courthouse and Chalan Laulau Beach Road from Quartermaster Road to Marianas Eye Institute.

The emergency water outage is due to the isolation of two 2-inch service waterlines for emergency repair. The waterline leaks are located in

Chalan Kiya on Apu Place and Kulot Kahet Place near the Camille Garden. Water service to the affected areas will resume soon after the repairs.

For the safety of the men and women at the jobsite, CUC advises the public to exercise caution or take alternative routes when traveling through the repair site. **(PR)**

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TOUR OF MCATS

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña, left, and CHCC Corporate Quality and Performance Management manager Halina Palacios observe an orientation briefing for incoming U.S. Army medics, assigned to 25th Infantry Division, who will support CHCC's vaccination team in administering COVID-19 vaccines to local community members in Saipan.

U.S. NAVY/BRAD RUSZALA



PSS, NMTI envision enticing students to pursue trades

By **NEIL FAMA**

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REPORTER

The Public School System, Northern Marianas Technical Institute, and the CNMI Department of Labor sat down last week to share a vision for the CNMI Career Technical School and their goal to entice students to be open to take on the career pathways program.

In explaining the process of career pathways, Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada gave as an example teaching the basics of carpentry and how this can be learned through specific courses in high school that lead to that pathway. One required subject would be geometry; the student can take this and will go down that path. When they graduate from high school, they can then take advance level carpentry classes at NMTI.

"Another example is seamanship. In freshman years of high school, you would learn about what is seamanship, then marine biology, then how to be a merchant marine. Then at NMTI you would learn at an advanced level and take the national test," said Ada.

In line with this, Ada proposed to NMTI to make it a

goal to provide higher, national level certifications.

Ada said he understands the priority of continuing to lead students on the path to college but, on the other hand, he acknowledges that many employers seek out and require more skilled workers. Ada theorized that possibly raising the salaries for skilled trades will help students consider pursuing that opportunity in trade school.

"We push our kids through college, [yet] employers say we need more skilled workers. A lot of emphasis is going to college. We can up the game salary-wise for the trade school," Ada said.

"Where are you going and what do you want to do? These are the universal questions that all students are finding the answer to. We're trying to entice a new generation to become skilled workers," said Ada.

Rep. Leila Staffler (D-Saipan), who chairs the House education committee, attended the meeting. NMTI interim chief executive officer Joleen Attao also shared her vision of NMTI growing into a functional and productive trade school of young students.

"I'm hoping that we get more guidance toward pursuing this," said Ada.

Ada denied early release anew

By **JUSTINE NAUTA**

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REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI denied again on Monday the request of Leyda I. Ada to be immediately released from federal prison, saying she can't demonstrate extraordinary and compelling reasons that warrant reducing her sentence.

U.S. District Court Chief Judge Ramona Manglona denied yesterday Ada's second motion for compassionate release, or early release.

According to a filed court document, Ada's first motion was denied because she failed to present medical records or supporting documents that would allow the court to adequately determine whether extraordinary and compelling reasons warrant a reduction in her sentencing.

Manglona denied Ada's second motion because the circumstances haven't changed—she still can't dem-

onstrate extraordinary and compelling reasons warranting a reduction in her sentence.

Ada, who is currently serving a 27-month prison sentence at Dublin Satellite Prison Camp in California, recently asked to be released early because her health condition makes her vulnerable to COVID-19.

The U.S. government, through assistant U.S. attorney Garth R. Backe, opposed Ada's request, pointing out that Ada is already set to be released to home confinement before April 14.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Ada was charged with conspiracy to commit money laundering and money laundering but was ultimately found guilty of perjury last April 2016.

Ada started serving her sentence shortly after the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit affirmed her conviction of perjury on July 30, 2019.

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Kilili pushes to bring Marianas into Medicaid

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (Ind-MP) is leading a request from all the insular area representatives this week in asking President Joseph Biden to include

funding to bring the Marianas into Medicaid.

In his e-kilili newsletter, Sablan said he and other insular representatives requested Biden to include

such Medicaid funding in his fiscal year 2022 budget proposal, expected in May.

He said the Obama/Biden fiscal year 2017 budget proposed lifting

the cap on Medicaid funding for the insular areas and putting the CNMI on a transition to full inclusion in this federal health insurance program for those with low incomes.

Sablan said the Republican-led Congress did not accept that proposal.

"Now that Democrats control both the Senate and the House, the chance of passing the Obama/Biden Medicaid proposal are improved," he said.

The delegate said he introduced legislation authorizing the first step: lifting the Medicaid cap. He said the legislation, H.R. 264, already has 60 co-sponsors.

Sablan said Biden has made it a priority for his administration to address the inequitable allocation of federal resources, such as Medicaid.

"Inclusion of that Obama/Biden proposal in the FY 2022 budget is consistent with that directive," he said. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*



Sablan

TASK

From Page 1

"Those dates are very fluid at this time," said Palacios at a radio news briefing last Thursday where he and Torres were among the speakers.

When asked about the government's reopening plan, Torres said the Commonwealth has different clienteles and in terms of what the islands have to offer "but we continue to market the CNMI obviously as one of the safest places."

Torres said his air transportation task force is looking at what kind of incentive program can work both ways for the CNMI and airlines.

He said the primary challenges is that Asian tourists typically face a 14-day quarantine when they go back to their respective countries.

The CNMI's advantage, Torres said, is the high percentage of the community that's being vaccinated against COVID-19. "So our goal is to have a sound proposal with the understanding that we need the herd immunity [that can only

be achieved when we are] vaccinated to a certain percentage," Torres said.

Once that goal to get a certain percentage of the population vaccinated is reached, then the idea of welcoming tourists back becomes achievable, he said.

At the same time, Torres said, they are aware about identifying a date that is reasonable and sound. "And there's calculation into putting a specific date or at least a targeted date for us to reopen our tourism," said Torres.

Palacios said reopening is a moving target as they cannot really get very specific with the dates.

"What I can say is that the governor's economic advisers are looking at everything and trying to plan for when we can open," he said.

At the end of the day, Palacios said, they know that a well-thought out plan in place has to conform with the needs of the tourists. "For example, a lot of our clienteles in the industry are from Asia. So coming here, we can ease up the quarantine but it's the 14-day quarantine when they get back

home," he said.

This is unlike the case of American tourists, Palacios said, since they don't have to be quarantined when they go back home, which explains why there's a very big rebound in the tourism numbers of Hawaii.

"Our goal is a lot different. ...If you're coming in from Korea, for example, as a tourist, we can ease up the quarantine and we'll work out a plan for that," he said. However, when the tourist gets back home, he/she has to spend another two weeks in quarantine in Korea. "So that's putting a damper on what we really can do and when we can really open up," he added.

Palacios said one of the recommendations is that they also need to sit down with the main tour agencies or tour companies out of Korea and Japan and find out exactly what kind of model will work, if there's any.

At the end of the day, he said, they need to discuss what can be done with the governments of Korea and Japan because they are the ones that put up and implement quarantine protocols.

TORRES

From Page 1

of Coastal Resources Management to instruct the Department of Public Works to "go back and design it right."

In a letter to DCRM director Janice Castro, Torres asserts that the proposed road improvement, if completed, with its reduced drainage areas will result in significant increases in water discharge onto the Torres family property in the area, which would result in the flooding of polluted waters onto their property, erosion, and property damage.

To address these concerns, DCRM is set to hold a public hearing this afternoon, 5pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, on the proposed project.

"We hope that our critical analysis prevails on the discerning eyes and ears of DCRM and its administrators to do again in 2021 what was done in 2002: send DPW back and tell the DPW secretary and his personnel to design it right; calculate correctly and submit data that are objectively sound rather than self-serving unreliable false narratives designed to misinform and harm," Torres said in his letter.

DPW is proposing to improve the 0.78-mile length of the two-lane undivided road, extending from the intersection of Chalan Monsignor Guerrero to the intersection of Flame Tree Road, which would include installation of guardrails, traffic signs, drainage improvements, and pavement rehabilitation. The Office of the Governor announced last February that road construction to repair the Tun Herman Pan Road will begin this year.

In his nine-page letter to Castro, Torres raised concerns over DPW's request to amend the siting permit for the project, accusing DPW of misrepresentation of facts. His brother, Joseph T. Torres, also wrote to DCRM, stressing that until after the off-site drainage system has been constructed, DPW should only be allowed to resurface the road.

The Torres' property, along with several other families', will get affected by the project, should DPW go forward with a full construction, Robert Torres said. He pointed out that the Route 35 Design is incomplete, with only 44 out of 62 pages submitted. What is missing, as an example, are drawings and designs

for the catch basin and storm drainage chamber—both critical infrastructure in such an environmentally-sensitive project, he said.

Also, he described the design as unqualified and uncertified, with unidentified design standards; an example of poor and incompetent design, with elements "curiously missing and omitted"; with understated calculations and computations. He said that DPW's conclusion that the resident's concerns are wrong "is a material misrepresentation of fact."

"The residents must be shown that design and given substantial opportunity to comment. DPW has not even done this as it has done two things: a) it has submitted plans which are materially different from the SSFM design that DCRM approved in 2002 and which are signed by a qualified professional engineer; and b) it has submitted its own "in-house" design, which are not qualified."

Aside from the missing designs, Torres also raised concerns over DPW's proposal to raise and grade up, and cut down portions of the road, its impact on the water run-off, and DPW's attempt to misinform DCRM and the public on the water run-off impact.

"... DPW uses the Run-off Analysis based on a "25-year storm/24-hour rainfall" basis. Every road contractor and applicant for a major siting permit knows that today DPW is requiring applicants to meet a 50-year storm analysis standard—not the 25-year storm standard. Why does DPW not disclose to DCRM that it is using a more forgiving run-off analysis standard for an area that is perennially flood prone?" he asked.

He added that for well over 20 years, the Torres family has been inviting DPW personnel to the area of Airport Road during the rainy season, to see for themselves the water run-off—and that only one DPW secretary came, Elizabeth Balajadia, way back in the 1990s.

"DPW claims that by re-grading the existing road and installing drainage curb and gutter, etc. it will be able to have the run-off accommodated by less drainage areas rather than more. To this we simply say 'hogwash.'"

Yesterday, DCRM agency officials also held a meeting to, among others, review the permit application for the Route 35 Road Improvement Project.

CUC

From Page 1

monwealth Ports Authority are still in talks over the terms of CUC's lease for a 1.5-megawatt power plant on CPA's property, to be used during a disaster or emergency.

The issue came up at the CPA board's Airport Facilities Committee meeting last Wednesday, with assistant attorney general Jose Mafnas, acting as CUC counsel, saying that CUC's board and management remain open to discuss this further with CPA.

"We think that the 1.5-megawatt engine would be extremely beneficial not just to CPA and the wells in its property, and the water being provided to CPA but also to all the residents of the south," said Mafnas.

As to the rent, CUC is asking CPA to reduce the rent by 50% or to about \$1,438 per month and, instead of a 20% increase every five years, reduce that to a 5% increase every five years, Mafnas said.

CPA director Pete P. Reyes raised the idea of not charging CUC at all for the use of the use of CPA's property on Rota for CUC's other planned 1.5-megawatt power plant. "Things are pretty difficult on Rota right now. The price is up, everything is up," he said.

CPA board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds pointed out that CPA and CUC managements are still in negotiation and that CPA management is not ready to recommend any action.

Reyes said he is not sure how far they've gone with the negotiations, but he remembers there were sev-

eral discussions about the matter in the past. "I remember raising this issue once. Because there was a sentiment from CUC that they want to use this piece of property. And since it's going to address rescuing CPA in the event of the disaster, this is something I felt were mutually beneficial for both CPA and CUC," Reyes said.

CPA staff attorney Joseph Hallahan said that CUC offered in October last year to pay CPA a nominal amount of \$1 to lease the property but CPA shot that down. "We told them at that meeting that the [Federal Aviation Administration] had informed us that there has to be a monetary value and that's part for our grant assurances," Hallahan said. This is why the CPA management went forward with the fair market value of the property because of FAA's position.

CPA Airport Facilities Committee chair Barrie C. Toves said, "We'll leave it up to the management to continue the negotiation and discussion with both parties."

Mafnas clarified that the numbers and terms that he presented are in regards to the Saipan power plant, as they are still working on the Rota property.

"But the idea is, once we finalize...this master lease for Saipan, the same would apply for Rota. But we still don't have that numbers. So this is mainly for Saipan as to the monetary figures," Mafnas said.

Toves said CUC and CPA managements continue to work together on the final details to present a final product to the committee for consideration.

At his presentation, Mafnas said CUC needs only 200 by 200 square

feet for both Saipan and Rota power plants. He said these plants are going to be used only in emergencies or disasters and would just power the wells that are on CPA property, which is why he previously gave a very nominal amount of rent. At the time, Mafnas said, CUC's proposal was \$1 for 40 years.

"And of course, that was returned back to me to charge a certain amount of rent for fair market value," Mafnas said.

The \$1 rent, he said, was based on the value being that CUC would provide free power to CPA in the event of an emergency or disaster. He said the power plant is a non-revenue generating facility.

"So I guess one thing for the record to be clear is CUC cannot be or will not be paying rent, but not charging for power. So in the event of an emergency or disaster, of course CUC will be charging CPA for the power used during such event," Mafnas said.

Mafnas said he counteroffered that the rent be reduced by 50%, which would be about \$1,438.60 per month.

"And of course there is a five-year periodic increase of 20%, if that can be adjusted to 5%," he said.

Mafnas said CUC is always open to talk with CPA and its executives as well as the governing body.

He said the \$1 rent amount was based on the CUC providing free power in the event of a disaster or emergency.

"Now that I guess the rent amount has been included, CUC will not be providing free power. Of course it will be charging based on the applicable rate," Mafnas said.

MCS juniors learn about Holocaust in interactive displays

Mount Carmel School Juniors recently learned more about the Holocaust with interactive lessons that linked their American Literature course with AP United States History. The lesson lasted for several weeks and engaged students in a wide variety of activities, including deep readings, Socratic Seminars, and creating a Holocaust Memorial on campus.

English teacher Keiko Yamagata used several resources from the Southern Poverty Law Center and Facing History and Ourselves to design a lesson that connected lessons about the Holocaust with current issues about hate and intolerance. During the first semester, Juniors read short stories, speeches, and letters about the Holocaust, which prepared them to read *Night* by Elie Wiesel in the second semester. Students also created their own poems in the likeness of *First They Came* by Martin Neimoller, engaged in Socratic Seminars, and created art pieces. This led to learning about Choiceless Choices, the causes of hate, and the CNMI's Hate Crimes Act of 2021. After five weeks, the students brought closure to all these lessons with teach-backs of the many ways they can combat hate.

Yamagata was moved by students' interest in learning about the Holocaust. "The students' journals, class discussions, and projects clearly indicated their interest in human behavior, faith and religion, decision-making, just to name a few." Based on that interest, Yamagata felt compelled to expand the lesson. "As we were nearing the end of Wiesel's memoir, I felt that there were other critical lessons that still needed to be facilitated and this was that teachable moment."

To reinforce what Yamagata was covering in her American Literature course, school president and AP United States History teacher Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero also took students on a deep dive into learning about the Holocaust.

After reading their textbook and watching a few videos explaining what the Holocaust was and how it happened, students used resources provided by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum to study the personal profiles of 40 victims of the Holocaust. Students then placed their profile cards along a timeline that ran along one of the campus hallways. Students then discussed 20 laws and decrees and 40 historical events that were connected to the Holocaust, all of which were then placed along the timeline in the hallway. That timeline thus became a Holocaust Memorial that demonstrated the personal



In learning about the Holocaust, Juniors at Mount Carmel School created this Holocaust Memorial, which runs along the second-floor hallway of the school's Maturana Building. The students' poems and artwork about the Holocaust were hung on a tree that stands at the beginning of student-made Holocaust Memorial.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

impact that laws, decrees, and historical events had on victims of the Holocaust. To complement the memorial, Yamagata had her students' poems and art pieces hung on a deciduous tree displayed at the beginning of the timeline. The entire lesson concluded with a screening of Steven Spielberg's Academy Award winning film about the Holocaust, *Schindler's List*.

Regarding the significance of the lesson, Deleon Guerrero said, "With the recent resurgence of white supremacy in American and Europe, compounded by a rising number of people who either don't know about or don't believe in the Holocaust, now, more than ever, we need to learn this history to ensure that it never

happens again."

Many students were moved by what they learned about the Holocaust.

For Kiana Propst, "Learning more about the Holocaust really helped me open my eyes to what truly happened." Propst also connected what she learned to current events. "It helped me reflect on different issues that continue to this day."

For Christian Guerrero, learning about the Holocaust was more than just a history lesson. "I will remember these victims and their stories. Though most have passed, never forgetting is the only way to bring them honor and to keep their memories alive."

Richard Villagomez was particularly impacted by the

lesson. "While I'll never truly know what it felt like to live through the Holocaust, learning about the Holocaust has made it feel more and more real to me. Reading the profiles and personal accounts of the victims has helped me have a deeper realization that every single victim of the Holocaust had their own life, and I find it

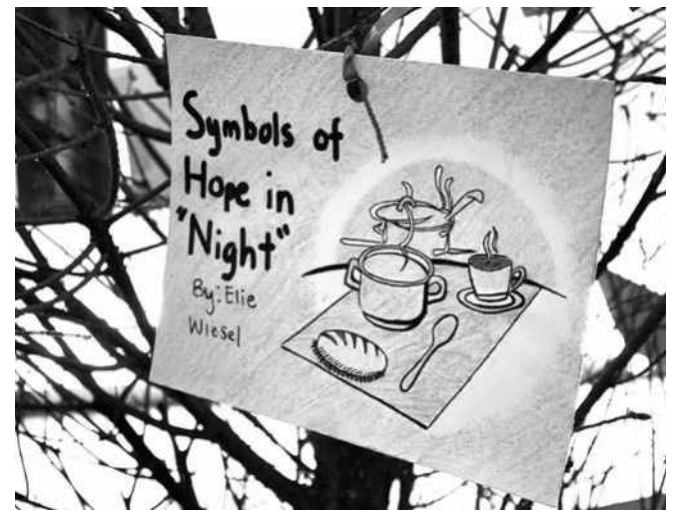
truly inspiring that they found their own ways to fight against the absolute cruelty that they were put through."

Based on what he learned, Villagomez believes more people should learn about the Holocaust. "It's absolutely important to help others realize that the Holocaust is more than just a series of facts and figures—these were real people, fighting against real brutality—and we owe it to every single one of these victims to educate ourselves and help educate others."

According to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, "The Holocaust was the

systematic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of six million Jews by the Nazi regime and its allies and collaborators. The Nazis came to power in Germany in January 1933. They believed that the Germans belonged to a race that was 'superior' to all others. They claimed that the Jews belonged to a race that was 'inferior' and a threat to the so-called German racial community."

For more information about the Holocaust, visit <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/introduction-to-the-holocaust>. (PR)



A piece of student artwork about the Holocaust that is part of a Holocaust Memorial that students recently erected at Mount Carmel School.



****VIRTUAL INTERVIEWS NOW AVAILABLE****

For Veterans Residing in the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands

How do I make an appointment?

- Email the Guam Benefits Office at: pctc.vbahon@va.gov
- Call the Guam Benefits Office and leave a message: (671) 489-3793

Include the following:

- Your email and phone number
- First and Last Name
- Reason for Contact

(For security reasons, DO NOT include your social security number in the email/phone call)

What happens next?

A Benefits Counselor will contact you within 2-hours of leaving a message.

If your message is received after 2:30pm, or on a holiday, or on a weekend, you will be notified the next business day of your scheduled interview date/time.

In all cases, a confirmation telephone call or email will be sent to the customer.

Appointment Days/Times: Monday through Friday, 8am to 3:30pm

Benefits Counselors will be available to address Non-Health Care related inquiries related to Compensation, Pension, Survivor Benefits, Claims, Appeals, Status Requests, Etc. and assistance with the claim process.

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



Mount Carmel School junior Richard Villagomez posts profiles of Holocaust victims on a timeline of laws, decrees, and historical events as part of a Holocaust Memorial at the school.

GMS student secures spot in CNMI Team for NJSDA Nationals

Chealzka Navarro, an eighth-grader at Green Meadow School, won first place the master's Impromptu division—and third place in Declamation—at the virtual regionals competition of the National Junior Speech and Debate Association last Saturday, March 13.

With this victory, Navarro secured a spot in the CNMI NJSDA National Team.



Navarro

Besides Navarro, other GMS students also secured wins at the virtual competition: 7th Grade Edsel Hinolan won 4th place in Declamation,

7th grade Ezra Alfred won 5th place in Dramatic Interpretation, 6th Grade Trishthony Duarte won 3rd place in Dramatic Interpretation and 5th in Poetry, and 6th grade Louise Manansala won 5th place in Declamation.

While the NSDA competitions wrap up, the GMS students eagerly await news about the NJSDA Nationals.

GMS Falcons are no strangers to the NJSDA competitions

and did not hesitate to practice and prepare the video

entries for their performance multiple victories secured pieces for the regionals. With over the last two months,

NJSDA coaches and teachers prepared their students final

entries for the regional competition. (PR)

Lohas Massage now an NMC ProaPerks Partner

Lohas Massage is the latest company to sign on as a Northern Marianas College ProaPerks Partner, joining many other businesses and organizations that provide exclusive discounts and benefits for NMC students, employees, and alumni.

All card-carrying members of the NMC ProaPerks program can now get a 10% discount at Lohas Massage, which can be found on the second floor of the Winchell's Donut building in Susupe. Appointments can be set up through phone by calling 235-8000.

Lohas Massage joins the growing list of ProaPerks partners, such as 153 Restaurant, 360 Restaurant,



Lohas Massage is now a proud NMC ProaPerks partner. All card-carrying members of the NMC ProaPerks program can now get a 10% discount at Lohas Massage.

NMC

4EVER CNMI, Alamo Car Rental, AllStar Sporting Goods, Aqua Connections, Inc., Athlete's Foot, Boarderline, Bolis R US 2, Caravan of Food, Casa Urashima, Chelu

Alynez Enterprise, Docomo Pacific, D' Chef's Kitchen, Dollar Days (Garapan), Enterprise Car Rental, Ete Cafe, Fishing Tackle and Sporting Goods, Fork and Spoon, Gara-

pan Restaurant Cafe & Grill, Gold's Gym, Grandvrio Resort Saipan, Great Harvest, Boyer Trading Co. LLC, dba Ginen Saipan, Healing Stones Spa, Highway Express Auto Care Center, Herman's Modern Bakery, Inc./ Tan Marikita's Cafe, Hertz Rental Car, Hyatt, Ice Island Coffee & Ice Deserts, Ina's Kitchen, Isla Shave Ice, Junlyn Salon, Kentucky Fried Chicken/Tacobell, Kevin's Cafe, Kiki's, Latte Build Gym, Magbers Snack Bar, Marianas Creation, MMC & Pacific Labs, LLC, Mermaid Restaurant & Milk tea, Nam Dae Moon, National Car Rental, Natural Nail & Spa, Neni Girl Nails, NMC Bookstore, Ocean Star Restaurant, Pacific Home Appliances, Pena House Boutique,

Saipan Computer Services, Salty's, Shirley's Cafe, Summer Snow Cafe & Kids Corner cafe, Surf Club, The Pacific Supply, The Shack, Tribe Marianas, and Triple J Motors.

NMC is in the introductory phase of rolling out the ProaPerks to alumni, students, and employees. For more information, visit marianas.edu/proaperks.

Companies and other interested organizations who would like to become part of the ProaPerks program and take advantage of the buying power of thousands of individuals that include NMC alumni, students, and employees can find more information by emailing proaperks@marianas.edu. (PR)



NMC

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Northern Marianas College recently collaborated with the NMI Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the CNMI Office of the Attorney General, Karidat Social Services, and the Department of Public Safety to provide training on relevant federal and state laws that included topics relating to arrest protocols, enforcement of orders of protection, instructions on making primary aggressor determinations, confidentiality issues, risk assessment for victims, crime scene preservation and evidence collection, and interviewing techniques for victims. The overall effort is to train enforcement personnel to respond effectively in domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking cases.

LOOKING FOR STAY IN NANNY/HOUSEKEEPER

Duties include: general household cleaning and tidying, laundry, ironing, organizing homes and grocery. Also cooking/help in the kitchen, childcare/baby sitting. Job location: Guam. Please contact Rani at shivrani10@gmail.com or +1671-686-8348.



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS STATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Caller Box 10007 | Saipan, MP 96950 | Tel: (670) 664-1708 | Fax: (670) 664-1710 | Email: cnmiswdb@dol.gov.mp

VISION: "To promote a workforce development system that meets the need of businesses, job seekers and workers to support a strong and vibrant economy in the CNMI."

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regular General Membership Meeting Thursday, April 08, 2021 9:00am – 11:00am

Venue: Saipan Mayor's Office Conference and/or Virtual*

Note: Due to Covid-19 safety measures, if any members of the public are interested in making public comments or attending by Zoom, please email cnmiswdb@dol.gov.mp for the link prior to the meeting. You must have access to a computer to participate.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda of April 08, 2021
- IV. Review and Adoption of February 04, 2021 General Membership Meeting Minutes
- V. Public Comments
- VI. Reports
 - a. Executive Committee
 - b. Planning, Assessment, Evaluation, and Research Committee
 - c. Program Committee
 - d. Policies and Procedure Committee
 - e. Core Programs
- VII. Action Items
 - a. WIOA Policy Manual Revisions
 - b. Business Needs Assessment Survey
- VIII. Executive Session
- IX. Announcements
- X. Next Meeting
- XI. Adjournment

Approved by:
/s/ Josephine DLG. Mesta
Chair



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL LICENSING BOARD
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: cnmi@cnmibpl-hcplb.net
Website: cnmibpl-hcplb.net



Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on **Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at 8am** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Administration Building, Governor's Conference Room on Capitol Hill.

AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order
- II. Determination of Quorum
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (03/11/2021)
- V. Public Comments
- VI. Chairperson's Report
- VII. Director's Report
 1. Fund Status Report
 2. Practice Monitor Report — April 1, 2021 (M. Bellama)
 3. Upcoming Virtual meetings
- VIII. Investigator's Report
- IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
 - A. Governor's Office
 - Memo – Cancellation of Reduction Hours
 - B. Legislature
 - S.B. #22-34 – Medical Assistants
- X. Old Business
 1. Gail Labatete - SCW
 2. Thomas Endicott - Dentist
- XI. New Business
- XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
 - A. New Application
 - B. Renewal Applications
- XIII. Miscellaneous Business
- XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
- XV. Announcements
 - A. Next Meeting Date
 - B. Adjournment of Meeting

DELTA MANAGEMENT CORPORATION (SAIPAN)

Has an opening for

Accountant

Core Responsibilities:

- Demonstrate and execute accounting controls and principles.
- Maintain accurate general ledger and preparing month-end P&L and financial statements
- Work and collaborate with a small team.
- Complete and manage daily site audits for accuracy.
- Complete bank account reconciliations in a timely manner.
- Prepare timely BGR tax reports.
- Accurately interpret financials and data.
- Manage business using Quick Books accounting program.
- Must learn NAV POS and Backoffice system.
- Adhere to and meet strict reporting deadlines.
- Manage Accounts payable and Accounts receivable
- Reports directly to the owner.

Core Skills:

- Must demonstrate excellent Microsoft Word, Excel and QuickBooks skills.
- Must demonstrate ability to effectively in English communicate verbally and in writing.
- 5 years accounting experience on Saipan.
- Must have a 4-year accounting degree.
- On island references & police clearance required

E-mail Resume and References to islandtrainingsolutions@gmail.com and deltaspn@pticom.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS**Temporary closure of Micro Beach restrooms**

The American Memorial Park management would like to inform the public that the Micro Beach public restrooms are temporarily closed beginning yesterday, April 5, 2021. Improvements are a part of Super Typhoon Yutu recovery efforts. Restrooms will be closed for the duration of the work which may take several weeks.

Public restrooms at the American Memorial Park tennis courts will remain open 24 hours a day seven days a week and at the Visitor Center from 9am-4pm on Monday, Friday, and Saturday. *(NPS)*

Saipan Chamber of Commerce meeting tomorrow

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will have its April General Membership Meet-

ing tomorrow, April 7, 2021 at the Hyatt Regency Saipan Ballroom. Guest speaker for the event is CNMI Procurement and Technical Assistance Center director Sixto Igisomar, who will be sharing updates about the newest business-support center on island as well as how businesses can best position themselves to win federal contracts.

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council will also be sharing their plans and upcoming projects that navigate and explore the human experiences of the indigenous and diverse peoples of the Commonwealth.


Due to COVID-19 protocols, RSVP is required to attend the GMM. To RSVP, register by 12pm today, April 6. Due to COVID-19 room capacity restrictions, we are capping our RSVPs at 100 guests. *(PR)*

SINMI monthly meeting**this Thursday**

The monthly meeting of the Soroptimist of the Northern Mariana Islands, or SINMI, is this Thursday, April 8, at noon, at the new Island Cafe on Middle Road in their private back room. You can park around the back side of the restaurant.

We will be ordering from the menu. Please join us. We are looking to grow our club and will be discussing our big "Fun-Raiser," the Margaritaville, May 14, from 5:30pm to 9:30pm. Tickets are \$25 with bottomless margaritas, finger food, and raffle prizes. All funds raised go toward their Live Your Dream Award in October.

Soroptimist International is a global volunteer organization that provides women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment. They celebrate their 100th birthday this year. *(PR)*




Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 21 – 036

Opening Date: March 31, 2021 • Closing Date: April 14, 2021



POSITION TITLE: DEPARTMENT: LOCATION: ANNUAL SALARY: CONTRACT: POSITION(S):	Trades Technician-Operator Power Generation Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA \$20,826.00 to \$28,115.00 per annum, Non- Exempt Not Contracted Four (4)
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The incumbent will be under the overall supervision of the Power Generation Manager or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of the Power Generation Division.

Duties:

- Responsible for the safe and efficient operation of all plant equipment and machinery including, but not limited to, generators, operation of valves, plant production operations, and unloading of diesel fuel tank trucks to storage tanks.
- Follows all safety and operations procedures during operations and maintenance activities.
- Responsible for monitoring all Plant systems as assigned.
- Will act as the responsible person when working without supervision. Responsible for entire plant during operating periods.
- May direct and/or instruct all other personnel as required during all other periods.
- May be on call for emergency response.
- Operates, controls, monitors and inspects generators, switchgears, motor controls, transformers, protection relays, circuit breakers, compressors, RO system and other associated equipment.
- Performs analysis, maintenance, operations, installations and/or repairs of 8 megawatt, 13 megawatt Mitsubishi-MAN diesel engines to include engine auxiliary equipment in the main Power Plant and provide the same services on the small Power Plant with 2.5 megawatt Electromotive Division (EMD) units.
- Ensures work is within Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) engineering specifications and quality levels.
- Takes readings from meters, gauges and computers at established intervals, reads and interprets data to take corrective steps as necessary.
- Inspects records and log book entries, and communicates with other plant personnel in order to assess equipment operating status.
- Performs systems operations to regulate and coordinate transmission load, frequencies and line voltages.
- Identifies potential issues and operational concerns; performs operational inspections and symptomatic maintenance; provides status reports; evaluates and implements solutions and corrective actions under emergency situations.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.


Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education. Considerable knowledge in operation, repair, and maintenance of power generating and/or industrial equipment/facilities. Must demonstrate having had (A) 4 years of increasingly responsible experience in a diesel engine power plant operations and (B) those 4 years of increasingly responsible experience are to be performing operator duties.
Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Mechanical and electrical principles, practices and operations of power plant equipment. Customer service principles; Mathematical concepts; Inventory maintenance practices; Taking equipment readings and maintaining reading data; Inspection procedures; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.
Skills in: Performing inspections and analyzing system and equipment data; Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standard operating procedures; Monitoring plant equipment and making adjustments; Identifying electrical and mechanical issues and recommending or implementing solutions; Initiating requests and trouble calls and providing assistance; Preparing and updating activity logs and status reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Must be available to work a 24/7 rotation shift to include weekends, holidays and on-call.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 21 – 030

Opening Date: March 23, 2021 • Closing Date: April 7, 2021



POSITION TITLE: DEPARTMENT: LOCATION: ANNUAL SALARY: CONTRACT: POSITION(S):	Trades Assistant Lineperson Power T & D Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA \$16,742.00 to \$22,602.00 per annum, Non- Exempt Not Contracted Four (4)
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The incumbent will be under the overall supervision of the Power T&D Manager or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of Power Division.

Duties:

- The Trades Assistant assists with installations, repairs and general maintenance in assigned service area; operates motorized vehicles, equipment machinery, and hand and power tools.
- Performs routine and preventative maintenance on equipment, vehicles, systems and/or infrastructure; performs basic inspections; and conducts basic troubleshooting of issues.
- Responds to trouble calls as needed.
- Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies, and setting work safety barriers for protection and to direct traffic flow away from work site.
- Gathers, cleans and returns equipment, materials and supplies used.
- Cleans and maintains work site after project or repair work is complete.
- Monitors equipment; takes readings and collects data; documents equipment readings; prepares and submits data and work reports.
- Performs inventory spot checks to ensure adequate materials and supplies are available for daily maintenance activities.
- Servicing equipment by disassembling, assembling, cleaning and calibrating.
- Assisting with equipment/vehicle inspections.
- Servicing and preparing oil filters.
- Responding to customer calls.
- Maintaining grounds, trimming trees and removing obstacles.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education.
Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.
Skills in: Providing customer service; Reading maps and drawings; Operating heavy and light equipment machinery, hand and power tools required of assigned area; Adhering to safety procedures and safe work practices; Prioritizing tasks and managing time for efficiency; Identifying issues and solving problems; Providing attention to detail; Taking equipment readings and recording data; Maintaining activity logs and reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.


Licensing/Certification:

- Valid U.S. Driver's License with appropriate class;

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: You may submit your CUC Employment Application and/or resume at the Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, from Monday to Friday, 7:30am – 4:30pm. Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota can drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration office. Application and resume can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 21 – 031

Opening Date: March 23, 2021 • Closing Date: April 7, 2021



POSITION TITLE: DEPARTMENT: LOCATION: ANNUAL SALARY: CONTRACT: POSITION(S):	Trades Assistant Wastewater Division Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA \$16,742.00 to \$22,602.00 per annum, Non- Exempt Not Contracted Five (5)
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The incumbent will be under the overall supervision of the Drinking Water & Wastewater Division Manager or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of the Wastewater Division.

Duties:

- The Trades Assistant assists with installations, repairs and general maintenance in assigned service area; operates motorized vehicles, equipment machinery, and hand and power tools.
- Performs routine and preventative maintenance on equipment, vehicles, systems and/or infrastructure; performs basic inspections; and conducts basic troubleshooting of issues.
- Responds to trouble calls as needed.
- Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies, and setting work safety barriers for protection and to direct traffic flow away from work site.
- Gathers, cleans and returns equipment, materials and supplies used.
- Cleans and maintains work site after project or repair work is complete.
- Monitors equipment; takes readings and collects data; documents equipment readings; prepares and submits data and work reports.
- Performs inventory spot checks to ensure adequate materials and supplies are available for daily maintenance activities.
- Performing daily well and pump station facility maintenance, cleaning and monitoring;
- Assisting plumbing and chlorine maintenance crew;
- Utilizing digging equipment for locating and repairing leaks;
- Repairing and securing pressure reducer valves, main valves, service lines and laterals, and booster pumps;
- Assisting with meter installation and repair;
- Collecting water samples;
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education.
Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.
Skills in: Providing customer service; Reading maps and drawings; Operating heavy and light equipment machinery, hand and power tools required of assigned area; Adhering to safety procedures and safe work practices; Prioritizing tasks and managing time for efficiency; Identifying issues and solving problems; Providing attention to detail; Taking equipment readings and recording data; Maintaining activity logs and reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing/Certification:

- Valid U.S. Driver's License with appropriate class;

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: You may submit your CUC Employment Application and/or resume at the Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, from Monday to Friday, 7:30am – 4:30pm. Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota can drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration office. Application and resume can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The pandemic is not over; wear your mask

There is a natural human instinct to declare victory before it is actually achieved. From the Chicago Tribune's infamous "Dewey Defeats Truman" headline to wide receiver DeSean Jackson spiking the football before he reached the end zone that cost the Philadelphia Eagles a touchdown some years back, people under stress can make bad choices. Sometimes, the impact is merely comical as with a football game or instant collector's item newspaper. But then there are times when such pronouncements can have deadly consequences.

Now happens to be one of those times.

We should all heed the warning of Dr. Rochelle Walensky, director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, who earlier this week spoke openly about concerns of "impending doom" with the growing number of COVID-19 cases nationwide.

The numbers are the numbers. Cases are up about 10% nationwide from the previous week to about 60,000 cases per day. Across the U.S., hospitalizations and deaths are up as well. And Walensky's chief concern is that the U.S. may experience the same spike in cases that recently hit Europe—France just announced a monthslong lockdown. Letting our guard down now, she observed, can lead to thousands of needless deaths.

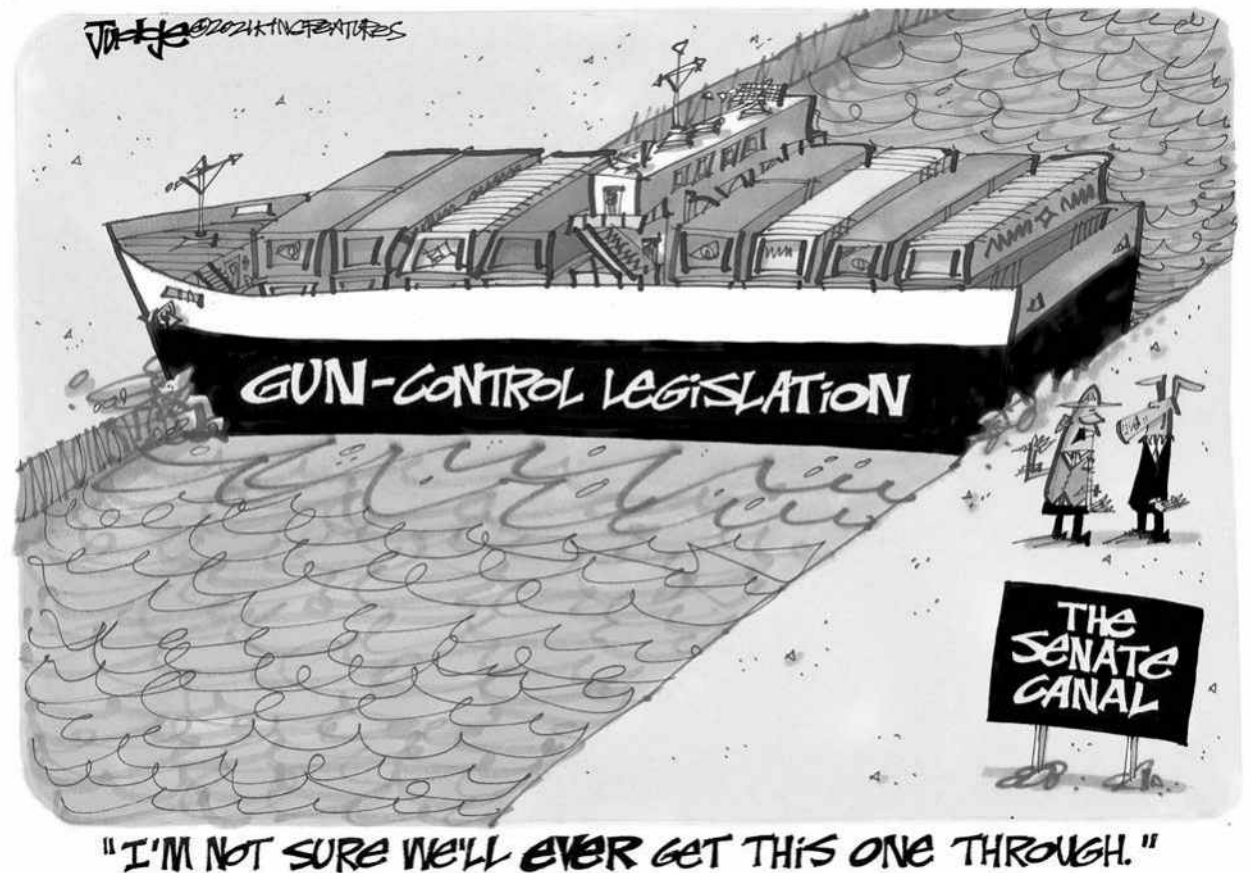
What's especially frustrating about all this is how the CDC and other health experts are constantly contradicted by politicians who should know better, including certain red-state governors who are doing their best to spike the football way too early. So far, at least seven states that previously had statewide mask restrictions have lifted them, Arkansas, Iowa, Mississippi, Montana, North Dakota, Texas and Wyoming. And that's not even counting the 11 states that never had one. Their argument comes down to this: They want businesses operating at full capacity and they think mask wearing is unhelpful.

That, in a word, is insane. For people to become complacent now, even as significant progress is being made in prevention with an estimated 16% of the U.S. populace now fully vaccinated against COVID-19, is to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory. The day is coming when people won't have to wear masks. It just isn't today. And please spare us, Republican governors, with your excuse that people can make their own judgments about masks. By lifting restrictions, you've already told them what judgment to make on that subject and it's the wrong one.

President Joe Biden made the case once again with an address from the White House on Monday: "If we let our guard down now, we can see the virus getting worse, not better. People are letting up on precautions, which is a very bad thing." Are Americans listening? Like so many other things, it's likely that such pronouncements are heard by Biden voters but not those who backed the other fellow.

Look, we understand pandemic fatigue. Think there's anyone who has enjoyed the social isolation, the economic slowdown, the job losses, the business failings, the deaths and despair that we've all experienced during this terrible

See PANDEMIC on Next Page



What should the US do with its surplus vaccines? Follow the playbook it used during WWII

By **MICHAEL FALCONE**
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The United States is making and distributing COVID-19 vaccines so fast that production will soon outstrip demand, leading officials to ask: What should we do with the extra doses? Most answers have focused on the home front: Dozens of states, including California, are rapidly opening vaccination eligibility to all adults, and President Joe Biden has doubled the speed of his initial rollout calendar, now calling for 200 million Americans to be vaccinated by the end of April.

While these responses are heartening, there is another way to handle America's growing stockpile of vaccines, and it draws from a playbook the country used during World War II—give them away.

That's precisely what America did in the 1940s, when it found itself with an abundance of another new medicine—penicillin. At the time, penicillin was a revolutionary new drug that could safely cure a slew of previously fatal bacterial diseases. But it was also considered a strategic war commodity. Having developed and procured the antibiotic specifically for the military and at great public expense, the U.S. government at first hoarded it for exclusive use of Allied troops.

By early 1944, however, U.S. factories led by Merck had ramped up production so fast that Allied needs for the impending D-Day invasion of Normandy were more than fulfilled. Officials then faced the same decision as the Biden administration today: to export or not to export?

Ultimately, war leaders chose to export. In June of that year, the United States shipped the first 10,000 vials of penicillin for civilian use abroad. Just a year later, American firms were sending out tens of billions of units of penicillin-derived medicines per month. Penicillin went to the Middle East, Central and South America, China and sub-Saharan Africa. It was even sent into Nazi-occupied Norway by the Swedish Red Cross.

This turned out to be a good bet, because exporting penicillin was a boon for both U.S. diplomatic and commercial interests.

Distributing penicillin allowed the U.S. to use its technological endowments to demonstrate global goodwill. The drug was sold commercially where possible, but those who couldn't pay received it through the Lend-Lease aid program. It was later sent freely to Europe through the Marshall Plan. Early on, when shipments were small, recipient countries were relieved to get any penicillin they could, and almost all of them voluntarily agreed to the U.S. National Research Council's regulations on use and

distribution of the drug.

A similar diplomatic reaction would likely occur today. With thousands still dying worldwide of COVID-19 every day and vaccine availability overwhelmingly concentrated in nations that produce the vaccine, even small shipments to other countries—with firm commitments to steady increases—would be better than the status quo.

The Biden administration has taken tentative steps in this direction but must accelerate its efforts. The White House recently announced a plan to share 4 million vaccine doses with Mexico and Canada, but much more is needed: Only 1% of Mexico's 125 million population has received a shot. The administration could also start donating doses to COVAX, the United Nations' global vaccine distribution organization. So far, the United States has given COVAX money but not medicine.

The benefits will outweigh the costs in other ways, too. Exporting the COVID-19 vaccine is likely to be good business for the U.S., just as penicillin was. Before World War II, the United States was a bit player in a global pharmaceutical sector dominated by European giants. The mass emergency distribution of U.S. penicillin changed that.

Through the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Organization, Americans began a program in 1945 to set up penicillin factories overseas as a form of reconstruction aid. This, combined with sales and donations of U.S.-produced stockpiles, allowed American companies such as Merck and Pfizer to break into foreign markets, forge long-term supply relationships, expand local licensing arrangements and transfer production know-how to international producers.

Once again we see a lesson for today: The United Nations and others have specifically advocated for transnational manufacturing partnerships and licensing as key ways to vaccinate the world more quickly and fairly.

Widespread rollout of surplus U.S. vaccines would also strengthen international ties to American pharma just as competition is on the rise from China, Russia and India. Indeed, China has explicitly tied its global vaccine donation program to its diplomatic image. America did the same in the 1940s, of course—U.S. officials sent boats through the canals of France showing movies about American aid, and even commissioned troubadours to roam the Sicilian countryside singing songs about a young couple, Giovanni and Mariella, whose romance was saved by penicillin.

Then as now, a pharmaceutical giveaway lifts all boats. Such

See WWII on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Prosecutors helped us see video of George Floyd's death through the eyes of others, and it was even more shocking and powerful

I have seen so much American violence, ugliness and death on video as part of this job that I am not easily overcome emotionally anymore by anything I see on the screen. But the video of the death of George Floyd shown during the first week of the trial of former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin shook my soul and made me weep.

The citizen video shot last May by a then 17-year-old girl is shocking, frightening and emotionally overwhelming in and of itself. The images and audio of Floyd's death as he begged for his life and called for his mother while pinned facedown on the concrete under the knee of Chauvin sent thousands into the streets in America and around the world last summer protesting the coldblooded brutality of Chauvin and three of his colleagues.

But in the trial's opening week, the prosecution found a way to make that original video shot by Darnella Frazier, who is now

18, even more powerful and disturbing. The attorneys, clearly understanding the power of images to arouse visceral emotions, showed the video to the courtroom and the world and then brought the young woman to the stand to talk about what she saw and felt. Her words were just as powerful as the video. Taken together, the images and words struck so deep into my heart that I can still feel the ache.

Frazier described walking with her 9-year-old cousin to a local food store, Cup Foods, where she saw a scene taking place in the street out front that involved "a man on the ground and ... a cop kneeling down on him."

When asked why she sent her cousin into the store, she said she didn't want the child to see "a man terrified, scared, begging for his life."

As she explained it to the court, "It wasn't right. He was suffering. He was in pain."

She spoke of her connection to the victim, saying, "When I look at George Floyd, I look at my dad. I look at my brothers. I look at my cousins, my uncles, because they are all Black. I have a Black father, I have a Black brother, I have Black friends, and I look at that and I look at how that could have been one of them," she said.

She also spoke of the guilt and trauma that remains: "It's been nights, I've stayed up apologizing and apologizing to George Floyd for not doing more, and not physically interacting and not saving his life."

Listening to Frazier, I came to understand how some police officers historically have tried to terrify Black citizens into submission with scenarios of brutality like the one in Minneapolis that killed George Floyd. And it has been going on for generations, with

By DAVID ZURAWIK

The Baltimore Sun

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small children seeing it in their neighborhoods and absorbing the trauma and the fear for the rest of their lives. Frazier seemed to understand that in trying to keep her cousin from seeing this horrible police dance of dominance and death that sadly continues today.

During the first three days of trial, the prosecution successfully married video images and witness testimony again and again. They showed video from police bodycams and other citizen smartphones and then brought some of those who witnessed the death of Floyd on the street to testify. And several of them broke down in tears as they recounted what they saw and, in some cases, the guilt they felt for not being able to help Floyd. Charles McMillian, a neighborhood elder, and Donald Williams, a mixed martial arts fighter, were two of the most powerful witnesses.

The interface of their humanity, empathy, decency and fundamental sense of right and wrong with the depravity of the police officers who participated in or stood idly by while Floyd was tortured and killed on the street is impossible not to feel deep in whatever it is we call a conscience in these dishonest, cold-blooded, still-racist, American times.

PANDEMIC

From Page 8

year? Think again. We can all look forward to burning masks when the moment comes. And it surely can't come too soon. But dropping our guard down is not just endangering ourselves, it's putting others at risk. Public health doesn't come down to individual decisions, it represents our responsibility to each other. We are our brother's and sister's keeper when it comes to tiny droplets hanging in the air.

Wear a mask, Wash your hands. Maintain social distances. Let's "fight to the finish," as President Biden has said. Deadly COVID variants and the possibility of yet another surge is just too high to take anything for granted. Just ask Walensky, who became emotional as she recalled her own experience with COVID-19 patients as they neared the end of their lives. "We have so much to look forward to, so much promise and potential of where we are and so much reason for hope," she said during her presentation. "But right now, I'm scared."

In this case, a little fear may well prove a good thing, at least for a little while longer. Last year, COVID-19 was the third-leading cause of death in the U.S. behind heart disease and cancer, the CDC also confirmed this week. It's just not something to take lightly.

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WWII

From Page 8

are the potential benefits that U.S. corporations might even consider doing the donating themselves. Just like today's Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines, penicillin was developed in an ambitious, federally subsidized crash program. Corporations in the 1940s temporarily accepted government money and coordination, which put them in a position to continue developing, selling and profiting from antibiotics for the rest of the century. The long-term benefits of a giveaway to both U.S. diplomatic power and the U.S. economy might be similarly substantial.

But the Biden administration should not wait for private goodwill. The coronavirus has tarnished America's image abroad, since the United States has been the global hot spot for cases and deaths for much of the last year—and ground zero for some of the worst of the COVID-19 era's science denialism and conspiracy theories.

By donating vaccines to the places that need it most, the U.S. could use its technological and industrial power to try to undo some of the damage that's been done to the country's reputation, as well as create a positive lasting impression for the history books. Future generations might be told that the United States helped the world climb out of the pandemic.

Michael Falcone is a historian and postdoctoral fellow in the Brady-Johnson Program in Grand Strategy and International Security Studies at Yale University. His research analyzes the role of science and technology in U.S. foreign relations.

The comprehensive challenge to America

Joe Biden wants to help us all, although he hasn't figured out how to do it yet. Of course, it's early in his presidency and maybe he will learn if he refuses phone calls from Sen. Bernie Sanders. But, in a unifying, civil way, this Neanderthal columnist would like to say that President Biden's \$2.3 trillion infrastructure plan has some good details. The devil is in the comprehensiveness.

After all, this bill is not just about rebuilding 20,000 miles of roads, modernizing bridges and updating the electric grid, for instance. It's also about racial equity with programs that especially serve minority groups. Then there's climate change. Biden wants to reduce fossil fuel jobs and compel auto dealers to get going on electric cars. He also figures on building 10,000 electric-charge stations. As the war on reliable energy proceeds with no additional drilling on federal lands allowed, he sees help in fossil fuel workers getting lesser paying jobs in making unreliable solar panels and windmills.

However, yes, we do need to sweat about hotter times even though the \$2 trillion to pay for all of this comes on top of the \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 stimulus bill creating a full-fledged welfare state. That came on top of \$4 trillion in previous COVID-19 bills, and Larry Summers had something interesting to say about the latest virus bill before passage.

This former Harvard president and finance honcho in the Clinton and Obama administrations, noted that a family of four making \$1,000 a week would bring home \$22,000 in the first six months after taxes. But if the income goes kaput through a layoff, the Biden welfare state would provide \$30,000 in the next six months through tax credits and unemployment insurance. The point is that productive, economy-enhancing workers could be lost, and Summers was among those saying the supposed rescue would not be that stimulating and could be disastrously "inflationary," a word leftists seldom use anymore.

Summers does not, however, see the infrastructure bill as inflationary because he thinks it will create jobs and wealth. In maybe 15 years, it's said, the wealth could pay off the government "infrastructure" funding generated by a 28% corporate tax that could lessen investment and wages. How about eliminating

By JAY AMBROSE

Tribune News Service

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pointless programs? Even with the economic boost, the debt issue will not disappear overnight, and the economy was pretty much getting well before all of this started. The cost on debt interest is \$800 million a day, and unaffordable welfare state costs will persist for years.

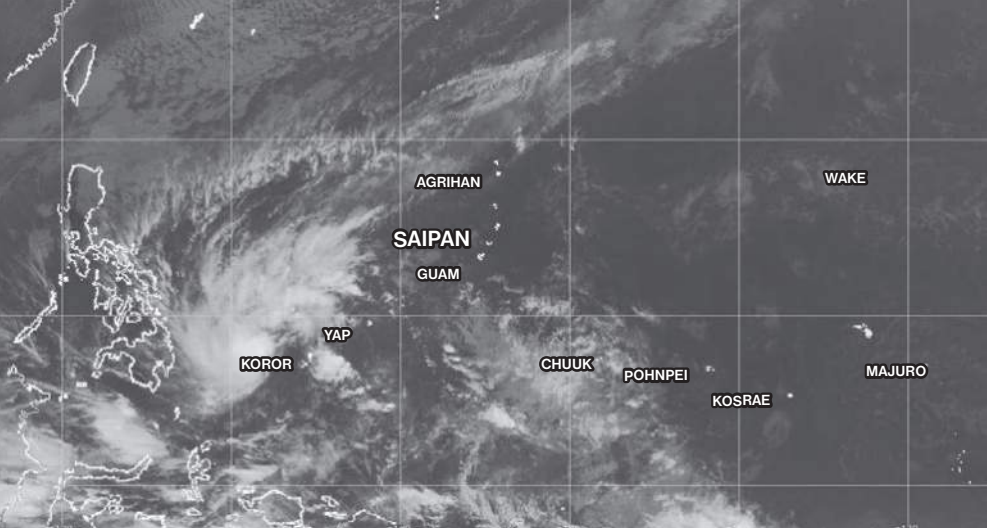
My own thought is that comprehensive change is hardly ever the way to go, although "comprehensive" has become a favorite word in Congress, pretty much making you a statesman if you say it enough. First off, it more or less hides some of the bill and it is impossible to know with certainty what most bills will achieve, least of all biggies with a gazillion parts. "Unintended consequences" is a phrase built on facts, and it is nothing less than impossible to debate a comprehensive bill with numerous items that in and of themselves need debate.

Yes, there can be times when Congress has to move quickly on a variety of fronts, although even then as selectively as possible. The intelligent, most responsible thing to do most of the time is to move ahead incrementally, one step at a time, giving each political party some chance to block the extremes of the other party.

The infrastructure issue should have come first, with climate change projects coming after more research. A COVID-19 bill on health measures should have been done alone. Congress should have taken on tax credits one tax credit at a time. The 628-page COVID-19 bill was likely read in full by few members of Congress, who mostly master summaries and talking points. Washington comprehensiveness is a crowd described as if it is one person.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
									
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.		Partly cloudy. Isolated showers.		Partly cloudy. Isolated showers.		Partly cloudy. Isolated showers.	
86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:16 AM, MONDAY, APRIL 5, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite imagery shows partly cloudy skies with isolated showers within the Marianas waters. The buoys reveal combined seas of 4 to 6 feet with occasional 7 foot values. The seas are composed of a north swell from winter storms near Japan and a northeast trade-wind swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	86 78 °F	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	86 78 °F	
Yap	Thunderstorms	88 71 °F	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85 80 °F	
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	85 79 °F	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85 80 °F	
Majuro	Sunny	85 81 °F	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:09 AM	6:30 PM
Wednesday	6:08 AM	6:30 PM
Thursday	6:07 AM	6:30 PM
Friday	6:07 AM	6:30 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:30 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	2:07 AM	1:38 PM	-
Wednesday	2:56 AM	2:34 PM	-
Thursday	3:41 AM	3:27 PM	-
Friday	4:21 AM	4:18 PM	-
Saturday	4:58 AM	5:06 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Rain	73 66 °F	
Beijing	Sunny	76 51 °F	
Hong Kong	Sunny	72 63 °F	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	83 70 °F	
London	Partly Cloudy	64 47 °F	
Los Angeles	Sunny	73 53 °F	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	87 76 °F	
Melbourne	Sunny	68 44 °F	
Miami	Mostly Sunny	84 74 °F	
New York	Cloudy	53 44 °F	
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	62 44 °F	
Paris	Sunny	65 44 °F	
Pusan	Sunny	69 39 °F	
Rome	Sunny	71 50 °F	
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	55 37 °F	
San Francisco	Sunny	66 49 °F	
Seoul	Sunny	63 36 °F	
Tokyo	Sunny	58 42 °F	
Washington, DC	Cloudy	66 52 °F	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:45 AM	High Tide	1.75	
10:19 AM	Low Tide	1.21	
2:34 PM	High Tide	1.54	
10:07 PM	Low Tide	0.01	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 29, 2021

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 4, 5, 6	UA174	4:50am	5:31am	1, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	5 via Guam	UA184/174	9:50pm	5:31am+1	5 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	7:05pm	8:50pm	5	UA184	9:50pm	3:45am+1	5
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	1, 3,	UA184	10:25pm	4:10am+1	1, 3
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. <i>(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)</i>							

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 9, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri/Sat
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri/Sun
ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri/Sat
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri/Sun
ROTA TO GUAM			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable

1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

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Business

Corporations gave over \$50M to voting restriction backers

WASHINGTON (AP)—When executives from Coca-Cola and Delta Airlines spoke out against Georgia's new voting law as unduly restrictive last week, it seemed to signal a new activism springing from corporate America.

But if leaders of the nation's most prominent companies are going to reject lawmakers who support restrictive voting measures, they will have to abruptly reverse course.

State legislators across the country who have pushed for new voting restrictions, and also seized on former President Donald Trump's baseless claims of election fraud, have reaped more than \$50 million in corporate donations in recent years, according to a new report by Public Citizen, a Washington-based government watchdog group.

Telecom giant AT&T was the most prolific, donating over \$800,000 since 2015 to authors of proposed restrictions, cosponsors of such measures, or those who voted in favor of the bills, the report found. Other top donors during the same period include Comcast, Philip Morris, United Health, Walmart, Verizon, General Motors and Pfizer.

The money may not have been given with voting laws in mind, but it nonetheless helped cement Republican control in statehouses where many of the prohibitive measures are now moving forward.

Whether companies continue to give to these lawmakers



In this July 18, 2019, file photo, a sign is displayed at an AT&T retail store in Miami.

will test how far risk-adverse corporate leaders are willing to go in their increasingly forceful criticism of the restrictive efforts, which voting rights groups have excoriated as an attack on democracy.

"It really is corporate America, as a whole, that is funding these politicians," said Mike Tanglis, one of the authors of the report. "It seems many are trying to hide under a rock and hope that this issue passes."

More than 120 companies

detailed in the report previously said they would rethink their donations to members of Congress who, acting on the same falsehoods as the state lawmakers, objected to the certification of President Joe Biden's win following the deadly attack on the U.S. Capitol by Trump supporters.

The tension is most evident now in Georgia, where a far-reaching new voting law has drawn an intense national scrutiny, prompting the criticism from Delta and

Coca-Cola. On Friday, MLB announced it would no longer host the 2021 All-Star Game in Atlanta.

Yet it's unclear whether this aggressive new posture will extend to corporate campaign

donation practices. And early indicators show there is risk.

Georgia's Republican-controlled House voted to strip Delta of a tax break worth tens of millions of dollars annually for their criticism of the

new law, though the action was rendered moot after the GOP Senate failed to take it up before the legislative session adjourned.

What is certain, though, is that withholding corporate donations to state-level candidates, like many companies did at the federal level, would have a far greater impact in statehouses.

"A contribution of \$5,000 to a U.S. senator who is raising \$30 million is a drop in a bucket. But in some of these state races, a few thousand dollars can buy a lot of ad time," said Tanglis. "If corporate America is going to say that (Trump's) lie is unacceptable on the federal level, what about on the state level?"

Public Citizen analyzed about 245 voting restriction bills proposed before March 1. They culled a list of sponsors and cosponsors, while also analyzing vote roll calls. Then they cross-referenced the data with state-level donation records dating back to 2015, which included money from company-sponsored political action committees, as well as direct contributions from corporate treasuries.

New to DC, Buttigieg looks to build bridges with Biden plan

WASHINGTON (AP)—Pete Buttigieg was a few weeks into his job as transportation secretary, buried in meetings and preparing for the launch of President Joe Biden's \$2.3 trillion public works plan, when evening arrived along with a time to try something new in Washington.

Instead of climbing into the back seat of a black SUV like most Cabinet secretaries, he headed to a bike-share rack. Helmet on, and with a couple of Secret Service agents flanking him, he pedaled the mile-long trip to his home in the Capitol Hill neighborhood.

It wasn't a one-time stunt. On Thursday, Buttigieg arrived at the White House for a Cabinet meeting on his two-wheeler. And that wasn't his only "regular guy" moment. Dog park devotees in the District of Columbia have also seen him there, chatting up anyone from children to

members of Congress such as Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y.

Buttigieg first had his eye on the job of the man who is now his boss, Biden. Buttigieg's presidential campaign was surprisingly successful—he essentially tied for first with Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders in the Iowa caucuses and finished a close second to him in the New Hampshire primary—and he made a strong impression as someone who represented the future of the Democratic Party.

Now the man known during his campaign as "Mayor Pete"—he was the mayor of South Bend, Indiana—faces the first test of that potential in his first job in Washington: leading a Cabinet department with a \$75 billion annual budget and a mandate to help spur an infrastructure program that Biden has likened to the building of the interstate high-

way system in the 1950s.

He will have to navigate the complicated politics of both an entrenched bureaucracy at the Transportation Department and the fraught politics of a bitterly divided Washington.

He may have found a way by just riding a bike, which has gained fans from even skeptics in Congress.

"You've got to keep your head up," Buttigieg told The Associated Press, explaining the path and potential dangers posed from unaccustomed drivers, but he said it can be a much quicker journey from point A to B.

Biden on Thursday tasked Buttigieg and four other Cabinet members—the "Jobs Cabinet"—with selling the administration's infrastructure and climate plan, a flood of money for roads, bridges, airports, broadband communications, water systems and electric cars.

Delta cancels about 100 flights, opens some middle seats

DETROIT (AP)—Delta Air Lines canceled about 100 flights Sunday due to staff shortages, and it opened up middle seats a month earlier than expected in order to carry more passengers.

The airline says it had over 1 million passengers during the past few days, the highest number since before the coronavirus pandemic began last year.

"We apologize to our customers for the inconvenience, and the majority have been rebooked for the same travel day," the airline said Sunday in a statement.

Delta took steps to increase passenger capacity, including opening middle seats on Sunday and Monday, in an effort to accommodate passengers.

On Wednesday, the airline announced that it would stop blocking off middle seats starting in May. The move was made last April to keep passengers farther apart,

a policy that Delta's CEO had repeatedly cited as raising trust in the airline. The seats would be reopened as air travel recovers and more people become vaccinated against COVID-19, the airline said.

Delta said the middle seats were opened just for Sunday and Monday, and its seat-blocking policy has not changed. Where needed, seats could be unblocked in order to get customers to their destinations on the same day.

"Delta teams have been working through various factors, including staffing, large numbers of employee vaccinations and pilots returning to active status," the airline said in the statement. Some employees were having adverse side effects from being vaccinated.

On Sunday, websites at three Delta hubs showed 33 canceled arriving or departing flights. There were 19 at

Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport, another 11 at Detroit Metropolitan Airport and three more at Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport.

Delta said Wednesday that nearly 65% of people who flew on Delta last year expect to have at least one dose of the new vaccines by May 1. That gave Delta the assurance to end seating limits, it said.

The airline industry was divided over the utility of blocking middle seats to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 on a flight. Airlines including Delta, Southwest, Alaska and Jet-Blue limited seating for months, while United Airlines never did and American did so only briefly.

Social-distancing is hard if not impossible on an airplane, even with middle seats empty—a point that United CEO Scott Kirby made many times to explain his airline's resistance to seat-blocking.

Nation

Trial in Floyd's death expected to turn to ex-cop's training

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The trial of a former Minneapolis police officer in George Floyd's death is expected to turn toward the officer's training on Monday after a first week that was dominated by emotional testimony from eyewitnesses and devastating video of Floyd's arrest.

Derek Chauvin, 45, is charged with murder and manslaughter in the May 25 death of Floyd. Chauvin, who is white, is accused of pinning his knee on the 46-year-old Black man's neck for 9 minutes, 29 seconds as Floyd lay face-down in handcuffs outside of a corner market.

Prosecutors say Chauvin's knee killed Floyd. The defense argues that Chauvin did what he was trained to do and that Floyd's use of drugs and underlying health conditions caused his death.

Floyd's treatment by police was captured on widely seen bystander video that soon sparked protests that rocked Minneapolis and quickly spread to other U.S. cities and beyond. The video, plus officers' body-camera video and previously unseen bystander footage, was a heavy component of the first week of the trial, reawakening traumatic memories for viewers of the livestreamed trial.

Police Chief Medaria Arradondo is expected to testify during the trial's second week,



perhaps as early as Monday. Arradondo, the city's first Black chief, fired Chauvin and three other officers the day after Floyd's death, and in June called it "murder."

"Mr. George Floyd's tragic death was not due to a lack of training—the training was there," Arradondo said then. "Chauvin knew what he was doing."

The city moved soon after Floyd's death to ban police

chokeholds and neck restraints. Arradondo and Mayor Jacob Frey have also made several policy changes, including expanding requirements for reporting use-of-force incidents and documenting their attempts to de-escalate situations even when force isn't used.

Prosecutors have already called supervisory officers to build the case that Chauvin improperly restrained Floyd. A duty sergeant and a lieu-

tenant who leads the homicide division both questioned Chauvin's actions in pinning Floyd after officers responded to a report that Floyd had passed a counterfeit \$20 bill.

"Totally unnecessary," Lt. Richard Zimmerman, the longest-tenured officer on the force, testified Friday. He said once Floyd was handcuffed, he saw "no reason for why the officers felt they were in danger, if that's what they felt, and that's what they would have to

feel to be able to use that kind of force."

Zimmerman, who joined the department in 1985, said he has never been trained to kneel on someone's neck if their hands are cuffed behind their back and they are in the prone position. Officers are supposed to get a person out of the position as soon as possible because it restricts their breathing, he said.

Instead, officers continued to restrain Floyd until an am-

AP
This Feb. 17, 2021, file photo shows Minneapolis Police Chief Medaria Arradondo addressing the media on preparations for the upcoming Derek Chauvin trial in Minneapolis.

balance arrived—even after he became unresponsive.

Chauvin attorney Eric Nelson peppered Zimmerman with questions about the threat a handcuffed suspect might still pose, as well as whether handcuffs might fail. Nelson has also suggested that bystanders shouting at police might have distracted them from Floyd and made them feel threatened.

Jurors heard several days of testimony from those bystanders, several choking up as they recalled feeling powerless to help Floyd and guilt over his death.

Genevieve Hansen, an off-duty firefighter who came on the scene as she was out for a walk, said she immediately recognized Floyd was in trouble and tried to offer help. Instead, Officer Tou Thao ordered her to stay on the sidewalk. Hansen, who was mostly stoic while testifying, was overcome as she recalled her frustration.

"There was a man being killed," she said. "I would have been able to provide medical attention to the best of my abilities. And this human was denied that right."

With new aid, schools seek solutions to problems new and old

With a massive infusion of federal aid coming their way, schools across the U.S. are weighing how to use the windfall to ease the harm of the pandemic—and to tackle problems that existed long before the coronavirus.

The assistance that was approved last month totals \$123 billion—a staggering sum that will offer some districts several times the amount of federal education funding they receive in a single year. The aid will help schools reopen and expand summer programs to help students catch up on learning. It also offers a chance to pursue programs that have long been seen as too expensive, such as intensive tutoring, mental health services and major curriculum upgrades.

"This feels like a once-in-a-generation opportunity for us to be able to make critical investments," said Nathan Kuder, chief financial officer of Boston Public Schools, which is expecting \$275 million.

But the spending decisions carry high stakes. If important needs are overlooked—or if the money does not bring tan-

gible improvements—schools could face blowback from their communities and from politicians who influence their funding. At the same time, schools must be wary of dreaming too big and taking on long-term costs they cannot sustain.

Education Secretary Miguel Cardona said the assistance allows schools to "hit the reset button" and confront challenges that have long plagued the nation's education system. He said schools can train teachers in social and emotional learning and work to close persistent racial disparities in education.

"With successful implementation, our students are going to have a better experience than they did before the pandemic," Cardona said in an interview.

Districts with higher concentrations of poverty will get the largest sums. Public schools in some cities are expected to receive more than \$1 billion, including Los Angeles and Philadelphia. The new money joins more than \$67 billion made available to schools in other relief pack-

ages during the pandemic.

Schools must reserve 20% for summer programs and other efforts to address learning loss, but they expect to have wide flexibility in how to use most of the aid. With more than three years to spend the new money, school leaders are thinking big.

Officials in Boston say the aid will be used to reopen, recover and "reimagine what is possible for our students," Kuder said. The money will help update aging buildings, but it could also be used to start new dual-language programs or revamp the curriculum, he said. Ultimately, officials plan to ask residents what changes they want to see.

In Tulsa, Oklahoma, where 83% of students come from low-income families, the district expects to get \$120 million—nearly three times the amount it gets in federal education funding in a typical year. Along with building upgrades, the aid will help achieve a goal to provide summer programs and after-school care in every neighborhood, officials said.

ACROSS THE NATION

Army: Soldier says she was sexually assaulted at Fort Sill

LAWTON, Okla. (AP)—Soldiers at Fort Sill in Oklahoma have been suspended from duty pending the outcome of an investigation into a female soldier's allegations that she was sexually assaulted, the Army post's commanding general said. Late last month, the soldier who was training at the post "reported that she was the victim of sexual assault involving Fort Sill cadre members," Maj. Gen. Ken Kamper said in a statement Thursday. The woman made a formal complaint on March 27, but it is unclear when the alleged assault took place. Kamper also didn't say how many people are alleged to have been involved, only referring to them as members of a cadre. He said they were "suspended from their normal duties, removed from any trainee environment and are all presumed innocent pending a

full and thorough investigation." Kamper said the assault was "immediately reported to law enforcement" and is being investigated by the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command. Fort Sill in an expansive installation about 90 miles (145 kilometers) southwest of Oklahoma City. It houses about 53,000 people, including 20,000 military and civilian staff, and is a prominent artillery training center.

9/11 Museum acquires prayer bench used by Rev. Mychal Judge

NEW YORK (AP)—A prayer bench used by the Rev. Mychal Judge, a Fire Department chaplain killed in the collapse of the World Trade Center towers on Sept. 11, 2001, was driven to the New York area on Sunday to join the collection of the Sept. 11 Memorial and Museum, museum officials said. The bench formerly belonged to Judge's twin sister, Dymonia Jessich, and spent the last five years at

an Episcopal monastery in Rising Sun, Maryland, according to Sister Teresa Irene, a Carmelite nun there. Its path to the Sept. 11 museum has been circuitous. Judge, a Franciscan who was praying in the lobby of the trade center's north tower when he was crushed by debris from the falling south tower, used to visit Jessich at her home in Berlin, Maryland, Sister Teresa Irene said. The prayer bench was kept in a bedroom Judge used, and its leather is worn from the imprint of his knees, she said. "It's worn where his knees would have been," the nun said. "It's his life of prayer." A new home for the bench became necessary as Jessich prepared to move to Texas several years ago, and friends suggested bringing it to the Episcopal Carmel of Saint Teresa monastery, some 130 miles north of Jessich's home in Berlin. Jessich, who was raised with Judge and their elder sister, Erin, in Brooklyn, died earlier this year.

Asia

‘Easter egg strike’ in Myanmar



AP

An anti-coup protester raises a decorated Easter egg along with the three-fingered symbol of resistance during a protest against the military coup on Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021, in Yangon, Myanmar.

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Anti-coup demonstrators in Myanmar, adept at finding themes to tie together protests nationwide, took to the streets holding painted eggs in a nod to the Easter holiday on Sunday.

In the biggest city of Yangon, one group marched through the Insein district chanting and singing protest songs and cradling eggs bearing the slogan “Spring Revolution.” Many of the eggs also bore a drawing of the three-fingered salute, a symbol of resistance to the Feb. 1 coup.

At dawn in Mandalay, the country’s second largest city, demonstrators gathered on motorbikes to shout protests against the power grab that overthrew the democratically elected government.

Myanmar’s military has violently cracked down on protesters and others in opposition, with the latest civilian death toll since the coup at 557, according to the independent Assistance Association for Political Prisoners. More

than 2,750 people have been detained or sentenced, the group said.

On Sunday, security forces opened fire on a crowd of protesters in Pyinmana in central Myanmar, killing at least one person, local news outlet Khit Thit Media reported.

Pope Francis, in his Easter Sunday address at St. Peter’s Basilica, prayed for the “young people of Myanmar committed to supporting democracy and making their voices heard peacefully, in the knowledge that hatred can be dispelled only by love.”

Sunday’s so-called “Easter Egg Strike” follows other themed days. They included a “Flower Strike,” in which protesters laid flowers in public places to honor those killed by security forces, and a “Silent Strike,” in which people across the country left the streets deserted.

Dr. Sasa, the Myanmar special envoy to the U.N. who goes by one name, posted an image of painted eggs on Twitter

and wrote that Myanmar’s people have a “great future in federal democracy,” reflecting hopes for the military to step down and reinstate a democratic system.

Security forces have continued to spread fear among ordinary citizens. Overnight, a resident of Yangon recorded video of a group of soldiers and police using sling shots to fire stones at the windows of homes, breaking the night’s silence. At other times, soldiers and police keep up their intimidation at night with raids on neighborhoods, during which they shout abuse, shoot at random, make arrests and vandalize property.

On Saturday, police opened fire killing several protesters in Monywa in central Myanmar and elsewhere.

With most of the internet access cut or severely restricted by the junta, it is becoming increasingly difficult for people in Myanmar to get images of their plight to the outside world.

As infections spike, PH extends lockdown

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine government extended a lockdown by another week Monday after an alarming spike in coronavirus infections continued to surge and started to overwhelm many hospitals in the capital and outlying regions.

President Rodrigo Duterte placed Metropolitan Manila and four outlying provinces, a region of more than 25 million people, under lockdown last week as daily infections breached 10,000. Roman Catholic leaders shifted Holy Week and Easter events online after all public gatherings, including in places of worship, were temporarily banned.

The government-run Lung Center of the Philippines became the latest hospital in the capital region to announce over the weekend that it can no longer accept walk-in patients after its COVID-19 ward reached full capacity and its emergency room was handling twice its capacity.

“We are not just full. We are very full. In fact, the hospital has been full for the past two weeks,” Lung Center spokesman Dr. Norberto Francisco said. Other hospitals said they could expand bed capacity but lacked enough medical workers partly because many had been infected.

Duterte’s administration has increasingly faced criticisms

of mishandling the pandemic, but presidential spokesman Harry Roque said the spread of more infectious coronavirus variants came as a surprise.

“No one could have probably foreseen how infectious these new variants are and as a result of which we have these ballooning numbers,” Roque told ABS CBN News, adding officials would inaugurate a 110-bed intensive-care unit in a hospital in the capital region Monday and were planning to launch mobile COVID-19 intensive-care centers.

The Philippines has reported more than 795,000 COVID-19 cases with 13,425 deaths, the highest totals in Southeast Asia after Indonesia.

World

AS VIRUS HAUNTS EASTER HOLIDAYS Europe ramps up vaccinations

PARIS (AP)—The French city of Lyon’s main stadium opened as a mass vaccination center during Easter weekend, and thousands spent the holiday lining up for injections at hippodromes, velodromes or other sites as France tried to speed up shots amid a new rush of coronavirus cases.

But as Europe celebrated its second Easter in a row under the cloud of the pandemic, some cities put vaccinations on hold over during the long holiday weekend—defying French President Emmanuel Macron’s insistence that “there are no weekends or days off during vaccination.”

Medical workers need “a little rest at last,” said an official with the French city of Strasbourg, which shut down vaccination facilities from Good Friday through Easter Monday, a public holiday. To ensure that residents still had access to potentially life-saving vaccines, Strasbourg expanded vaccination hours and administered all of its weekly supply of doses between last Monday and Thursday, the official said.

Spain, Italy and Germany faced a similar holiday vaccination challenge.

Spaniards lined up for

shots on Easter Sunday in Barcelona and other points around the country, but Madrid halted vaccinations at local health centers to give staff a break. The Spanish capital continued to give shots at a soccer stadium and a new hospital built to help handle pandemic cases.

With Spain fearing yet another surge of infections like the one now overwhelming French intensive care wards, Spanish Health Minister Carolina Darias had urged regional authorities to keep up vaccinations throughout Easter Week.

The French city of Sarcelles, north of Paris, was among those whose vaccination center stayed open Easter Sunday, amid mushrooming infections and demand. The center’s organizers planned to inject 2,000 doses Sunday—twice their daily average.

Those waiting to get inside felt lucky and relieved. The surrounding Val d’Oise region now has the highest coronavirus infection rate in France, and the situation in Sarcelles symbolizes how the pandemic has worsened existing inequalities.

“The problem is with people who do not qualify yet and are in a hurry, which

I understand as they want to get back to a normal life,” said Dr. Majida El Mokhtari. “Unfortunately we are not able to vaccinate everybody with the doses that are distributed to us.”

The city’s working class residents have higher exposure to the virus because many can’t work remotely. In the area’s housing projects, many families have multiple generations living in close quarters. Language barriers make sorting out vaccination arrangements a challenge for many immigrants.

In Lyon, French first division soccer club Olympique Lyon opened its stadium and provided volunteer employees to help medical workers and firefighters with a mass vaccination drive that started Saturday. Authorities plan to administer 3,000 doses per day during the first three days.

Club President Jean Michel Aulas expressed hope that the effort would help create “social cohesion” at a time of strain and uncertainty, as France entered a third partial lockdown starting Sunday.

Meanwhile, the French military announced that it would open seven vaccination centers starting Tuesday to help inject civilians.

In Easter speech, pope calls wars in pandemic ‘scandalous’

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Francis in his traditional Easter Sunday address denounced as “scandalous” how armed conflicts continue to rage even as the coronavirus pandemic has triggered severe social and economic suffering and swollen the ranks of the poor.

Francis tempered his “Urbi et Orbi” address (Latin for “To the city and to the world”) wishes of joy on the Christian feast day along with accounts of pain from the globe’s many armed conflicts in Africa, the Mideast, Latin America, Asia and Eastern Europe.

Describing vaccines as an “essential tool” in the pandemic battle, Francis called for a “spirit of global responsibility” as he encouraged nations to overcome “delays in the distribution of vaccines” and ensure that the shots reach the poorest nations.

“Everyone, especially the most vulnerable among us, requires assistance and has the right to have access to necessary care,” the pontiff said.

He sounded a note of in-

dignation at the start of his address, decrying that there has been no shortage of war and conflict during the world’s worst health crisis in a century.

“The pandemic is still spreading, while the social and economic crisis remains severe, especially for the poor. Nevertheless—and this is scandalous—armed conflicts have not ended, and military arsenals are being strengthened,” Francis said, sounding angry. “That is today’s scandal.”

The pontiff prayed that public authorities would see to it that those needing assistance have a “decent standard of living. Sadly, the pandemic has dramatically increased the number of the poor and the despair of thousands of people.”

He lamented the plight of people afflicted by war and other conflicts, citing Haiti, one of the world’s poorest countries and which has been wracked by violent protests and political strife including an alleged coup. Francis urged Haitians “not to be overwhelmed by difficulties, but to

look to the future with confidence and hope.”

Francis offered encouragement to young people in Myanmar who are “committed to supporting democracy and making their voices heard peacefully.” Demonstrators in Myanmar took to the streets holding painted eggs in a reference to Easter. Myanmar’s military has violently sought to quash those opposed to a Feb. 1 coup that ousted a democratically elected government.

Francis thanked Lebanon and Jordan for taking in refugees from war in Syria, praying that peace finally comes to “millions are living in inhumane conditions.” He also prayed for ends to conflicts in Yemen and Libya.

Citing suffering of people in Africa, he decried “internal violence and international terrorism, especially in the Sahel and Nigeria.” Other troubled areas he mentioned were Ethiopia’s Tigray province and Mozambique’s Cabo Delgado province, which has been bloodied by days of fighting with rebels for control of a town.

Overdrive

Roadshow: 2021 Nissan Versa offers so much for so little

By CRAIG COLE
ROADSHOW

The average new-vehicle transaction price in the U.S. last year topped \$40,000. That's an astronomical amount of money to spend on an asset that typically depreciates like property values at a superfund site. But owing a shiny new ride with a factory warranty and plenty of tech doesn't have to leave you a penniless pauper. The 2021 Nissan Versa, for instance, offers so much content for so little cash.

No, there's nothing joyful or exuberant about this scrappy little four-door. It's definitely a function-dictates-form kind of car, but the standard equipment and overall comfort offered are impossible to ignore. From the base Versa S to the pinnacle SR, every one comes standard with automatic emergency braking including pedestrian detection, automatic high beams, lane-departure warning and even rear automatic braking. Just a few years ago, features like these were hard to find on luxury cars, and they're now standard fare on the most-affordable Nissan in America. The two higher trims can also be fitted with lane-departure warning, rear cross-traffic alert, blind-spot monitoring and even adaptive cruise control. That last amenity is included in the \$400 Convenience Package, which also gets you single-zone automatic temperature control and heated front seats.

The Versa's high-end tech works surprisingly well. The



There's a lot to like about the affordable 2021 Nissan Versa.

TNS

blind-spot monitoring system in the SR model I'm testing is attentive to surrounding traffic and the adaptive cruise control—while not as fancy as Nissan ProPilot Assist, which includes lane centering—is eerily observant, able to spot other vehicles around turns and gently slow down so there are no white-knuckle incidents on the highway. Its performance is laudable at any price, let alone in a car that's this affordable.

Other amenities include a standard 7-inch color touchscreen (which, unfortunately, is pretty washed out, even on overcast days), Bluetooth and three USB ports. Remote keyless entry and push-button start are standard equipment, too. Fancy SR models are also fit-

ted with LED headlights, an easy-to-use 7-inch reconfigurable instrument cluster display and a leather-wrapped steering wheel. The Versa's top two trims can also be fitted with a Nissan Connect infotainment system, which includes satellite radio plus Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. The SR variant's standard six-speaker sound system is also unexpectedly crisp and clear.

The Versa's interior is a pleasant place to spend time. Constructed mostly of hard plastic, the dashboard and door panels nonetheless look good, and there are soft surfaces sprinkled throughout. Both contrast-color stitching and seat fabric livens up what could otherwise be a pretty

bleak cabin. The front bucket chairs are supple yet supportive, and the backbench is upright and spacious, if a little tight on headroom. This car nails the basics, but not everything. An armrest between the front seats is not standard, leaving the driver and front passenger's elbows dangling, which could get pretty tiring on long drives. Nissan does, however, offer a center armrest with an integrated storage cubby, but it's an absurd \$320 option, one this example is not fitted with. Why such a simple feature isn't standard across the board is a real head-scratcher.

When it's time to haul luggage, this Nissan's trunk offers about 15 cubic feet of space and is both broad and

long. For added versatility, the 60/40 split rear backrest folds down for extra capaciousness.

The Versa's only engine is a 1.6-liter inline-4. Without the aid of any forced induction, its output is modest, just 122 horsepower and 114 pound-feet of torque. As you might imagine, it sounds a bit taxed when laboring, but otherwise feels pretty smooth for what it is. The acceleration this engine provides is adequate, but in certain situations, like when passing dawdling tractor-trailers or merging onto the highway, you'll pine for more gusto. Despite those lackluster numbers, the Versa feels feisty off the line, its throttle tip-in is tuned to be borderline jumpy, but whether you're one-third

of the way into the accelerator or flat out, the Versa doesn't accelerate any quicker, plus its vigor lags at speeds beyond about 50 mph. Plan your overtaking maneuvers accordingly.

A quick-witted continuously variable transmission is standard on the midrange SV and top-shelf SR models. It responds smoothly and promptly to driver inputs, making the most of the Versa's available horses. Nissan's D-Step Logic causes the CVT to "shift" like a conventional automatic when driven in anger, which reduces droning sounds and that annoying rubber-band feeling endemic to these transmissions. Providing a welcome bit of choice, the base S grade is available with a five-speed manual gearbox. It may be more affordable up front, but this three-pedal arrangement sure eats into the Versa's fuel economy, costing you a whopping 5 miles per gallon across the board. Models fitted with the CVT are rated at 32 mpg city, 40 mpg highway and 35 mpg combined. In mixed use, I'm averaging about 38 mpg, which is pretty stellar considering how liberal I am with the gas.

Other aspects of the Versa's dynamics are mostly likable. The ride quality is taut yet forgiving, which makes the car feel a segment or two larger than it actually is. No tinniness or fragility is detectable while driving over ravaged pavement or rough dirt roads, though it does feel a bit top-heavy in corners, with a wisp of body roll when pushed. Also, wind noise is pronounced at freeway speeds, though I wouldn't consider it loud inside. Pronounced, yes. Raucous, no.

Q: I bought a 2012 Ford Escape. About three years later, it would not start. Went to Auto Zone and bought a new battery. About four weeks later, same thing. I went back to Auto Zone and they gave me a new battery. Three weeks later, same thing. Took it to a local garage and no faults were stored in the computer. They took down starter and cleaned it. No problem after that.

—T.B., Allentown, Pennsylvania

A: What occurred is that they cleaned the connections. Dirty, corroded connections create resistance that won't allow enough current to pass to run the starter. I have found that checking the ground connections often works wonders, too.

Q: I just read about cleaning out the Nav system when selling your auto. I do not

Motormouth: Why it won't start

put my home address in my Nav system but instead use the address of our local police station. It is close enough to our house for calculating time and distance. In the event one of our vehicles would get stolen and they tried to use the Nav system it would lead them to the police station.

—C.L., Chicago

A: Brilliant!

Q: In a recent column "J.S. of Chicago" was looking for a vehicle that has a CD player. According to Subaru.com, all Forester models have a CD player. The Outback Touring has a CD player standard and the Outback Limited XT offers it as an option. Full disclosure: I don't work

for Subaru but have some friends that drive them.

—K.J., Chicago

A: Thanks to you, and several other readers, J.S. might go shopping for a new Subaru, Lexus, GM truck, Lincoln Corsair or

Q: I recently had a surprising problem with my 2018 Fusion Hybrid. I got a flat tire where the sidewall of the tire was torn. A neighbor offered to help put on my spare. When I opened the trunk, we discovered I had only a portable compressor. My Ford dealer said that there was no mini spare made for my model. The local tire store gave me the same answer. I could purchase a less expensive rim

and tire for my car should I need a spare. If I do that, my limited trunk space would be filled half-way with a spare tire. Is there any solution other than a regular tire?

—E.B., Chicago

A: One option is to sign up with a road service provider. But check your insurance policy first. You may already have towing coverage. Buying a full-size tire and rim is not worth the trouble. Most tires are flattened by punctures, not sidewall damage. The likelihood of needing a spare is low.

Q: After reading your recent article regarding the small battery devices only being able to jump start 4-cylinder engines, you

By BOB WEBER

Chicago Tribune

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to Motormouth, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 160 N. Stetson Ave., Fourth Floor, Chicago, IL 60601 or motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.



need to know that is not true. I have a Halo Bolt device and I have used it several times to jump start my 6-cylinder Nissan Pathfinder. I think these devices work well especially for those who need to be careful on who they trust for assistance in this crazy world.

—J.C., Carol Stream, Illinois

A: A few other readers have reported using one of the newer power packs to start larger engines. I have had my unit for a few years, and it would not start a V-6 let alone a V-8. But in its defense, its other functions are excellent. I guess it's time I shop for a replacement power bank to handle my Hemi.

Life & Style

'Trial of the Chicago 7' takes top honors at SAG Awards

By JAKE COYLE
AP FILM WRITER

The starry cast of Aaron Sorkin's 1960s courtroom drama "The Trial of the Chicago 7"

took the top prize Sunday at a virtual Screen Actors Guild Awards where actors of color, for the first time, swept the individual film awards.

The 27th SAG Awards,

presented by the Hollywood actors' guild SAG-Aftra, were a muted affair—and not just because the red carpet-less ceremony was condensed to a pre-recorded, Zoom-heavy, one-hour broadcast on TBS and TNT. The perceived Academy Awards frontrunner—Chloé Zhao's "Nomadland"—wasn't nominated for best ensemble, making this year's postponed SAG Awards less of an Oscar preview than it is most years.

Still, the win for Netflix's "The Trial of the Chicago 7" marked the first time a film from any streaming service won the guild's ensemble award. Written and directed by Sorkin, "The Trial of the Chicago 7" had been set for theatrical release by Paramount Pictures before the pandemic hit, leading to its sale to Netflix. The streamer is still after its first best-picture win at the Oscars.

Frank Langella, who plays the judge who presided over the 1969 prosecution of activists arrested during the 1968 Democratic National Convention, drew parallels between that era's unrest and today's while accepting the award on behalf of the cast.

"God give us leaders," said the Rev. Martin Luther King before he was shot down in cold blood on this very date in 1968—a profound injustice," said Langella, citing events leading up to those dramatized in "The Trial of the Chicago 7." "The Rev. King was right. We need leaders to guide us toward hating each other less."

The win came over two other Netflix releases—"Ma Rainey's Black Bottom" and



SAG AWARDS VIA AP

In this video grab provided by the SAG Awards, the cast of "The Trial of the Chicago 7" accepts the award for outstanding performance by a cast in a motion picture during the 27th annual Screen Actors Guild Awards on April 4, 2021.

"Da 5 Bloods"—as well as Amazon's "One Night in Miami" and A24's "Minari." Had Lee Isaac Chung's Korean-American family drama "Minari" won, it would have been the second straight year a film largely not in English won SAG's top award. Last year, the cast of "Parasite" triumphed, becoming the first cast from a non-English language film to do so.

The SAG Awards are a closely watched Oscar harbinger. Actors make up the largest branch of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, and SAG winners often line up with Oscar ones. Last year, "Parasite" went on to win best picture at the Academy Awards, and all of the individual SAG winners—Renée Zellweger, Brad Pitt, Laura Dern, Joaquin Phoenix—won at the Oscars, too.

Those awards this year went to a group entirely of actors of color, potentially setting the stage for a historically diverse slate of Oscar winners: Chadwick Boseman, best male actor for "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom"; Viola Davis, best female actor for "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom"; Yuh-Jung Yoon, best female supporting actor for "Minari"; and Daniel Kaluuya, best male supporting actor for "Judas and the Black Messiah."

Of those, Davis' win was the most surprising in a category that has often belonged to Carey Mulligan ("Promising Young Woman") or Frances McDormand ("Nomadland"). It's Davis' fifth individual SAG award.

"Thank you, August, for leaving a legacy for actors of color that we can relish the rest of our lives," said Davis, referring to playwright August Wilson.

As it has throughout the awards season, best male actor again belonged to Boseman for his final performance. Boseman, who died last August at age 43, had already set a record for most SAG film nominations—four—in a single year. He was also posthumously nominated for his supporting role in "Da 5 Bloods" and shared in the ensemble nominations for both Spike Lee's film and "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom."

It was the SAG Awards where Boseman gave one of his most memorable speeches. At the guild's 2019 awards, Boseman spoke on behalf of the "Black Panther" cast when the film won the top award. "We all know what it's like to be told that there is not a place for you to be featured," Boseman said then. "Yet you are young, gifted and Black."

Prayer vigil planned for stricken rapper DMX

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP)—A prayer vigil was planned for Monday outside the suburban New York hospital where rapper DMX remained on life support Sunday following a heart attack.

The family of the rapper said in an email Sunday that the vigil will be held outside White Plains Hospital at 5 p.m.

"On Friday night, April 2nd, 2021, our brother, son, father, and colleague DMX, birth name of Earl Simmons, was admitted to White Plains (NY) Hospital, facing serious health issues," the family said through a publicist. "We ask that you please keep Earl/DMX and us in your thoughts, wishes, and prayers as well as respect our privacy as we face these challenges."

Another statement released Sunday afternoon said the rapper remained in a coma and was on a ventilator.

Simmons' longtime lawyer, Murray Richman, said the rapper was admitted to the intensive care unit at White Plains Hospital after going into cardiac arrest. Richman said he could not confirm reports that DMX, 50, overdosed on drugs and was not sure what caused the heart attack.

DMX made a splash in rap music in 1998 with his first studio album "It's Dark and Hell is Hot," which debuted No. 1

on the Billboard 200 chart. The multiplatinum selling album was anchored by several hits including "Ruff Ryders' Anthem," "Get At Me Dog" and "Stop Being Greedy."

The rapper had four other chart-topping albums including "...And Then There Was X," "Flesh of My Flesh, Blood of My Blood," "The Great Depression" and "Grand Champ." He has released seven albums and earned three Grammy nominations.

Along with his music career, DMX paved his way as an actor. He starred in the 1998 film "Belly" and appeared in "Romeo Must Die" a couple years later with Jet Li and the late singer Aaliyah. DMX and Aaliyah teamed up for the film's soundtrack song "Come Back in One Piece."

The rapper also starred in "Exit Wounds" with Steven Seagal and "Cradle 2 the Grave" with Li.

Over the years, DMX has battled with substance abuse. The rapper canceled a series of shows to check himself into a rehabilitation facility in 2019. In an Instagram post, his team said he apologized for the canceled shows and thanked his fans for the continued support.

Last year, DMX faced off against Snoop Dogg in a Verzuz battle, which drew more than 500,000 viewers.

Unguarded comment may cause brothers to break permanently

DEAR ABBY: I am a senior male. I understand I may have some beliefs that others find old-fashioned. However, I consciously try to be tolerant of others' feelings and beliefs. That said, my problem is with my younger brother, who is a homosexual. I have always tried to ignore that side of his life and, consequently, we have always had a good relationship. He lives in another state, so we only talk on the telephone.

A couple of months ago while we were talking, the subject of sexuality came up, and I told him I find the fact that he is gay "disgusting." I know it was a poor choice of words. I merely meant to say that I, myself, am and always have been totally heterosexual. I have never had any sexual interest in members of my own sex. I never meant my comment to be judgmental of my brother or anyone else.

I left several messages apologizing for anything I said that he found objectionable. Now, when I try to contact him, he doesn't answer my phone calls.

Abby, I miss my brother. I truly love him, and I don't want to lose all contact with him. If you have any advice for me, please give it to me. I'm desperate and can think of nothing I might be able to do to restore our relationship. Please help me.

FEELS LIKE A FOOL IN WASHINGTON

DEAR FEELS LIKE: I have never understood why so

many straight people spend so much time obsessing about what gay people might be doing behind closed doors. THAT, to me, is disgusting.

I'll be frank. After what you said to your brother, he would have to be a saint to forgive you. He is doing what emotionally healthy people do, erasing a negative influence from his life. You can continue trying to apologize by penning a heartfelt letter of apology and remorse, promising to never use those words again, and sending it to your brother. But if he continues to be unreceptive, you will have to live with it.

DEAR ABBY: I met a man online seven months ago. We hit it off right away. I checked to make sure he wasn't a "catfisher" and everything checked out. We talk on the phone at least twice a day, Facebook Messenger and vido chat. He sent me a card for my birthday along with some money.

I have developed strong feelings for him, and he has told me he loves me. He has told me many times he wants to meet, but we couldn't do it because of the pandemic. He's a jewelry designer trying to get his business back up before he loses it. He's afraid to lose everything.

I don't know what to do. Should I keep waiting or just stay friends with him? We really care about each other, but circumstances prevent us from meeting.

BROKENHEARTED IN NEW YORK

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



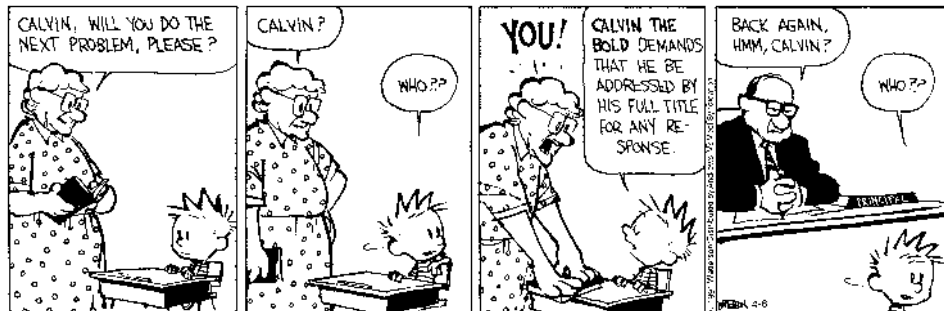
DEAR BROKENHEARTED: Because "circumstances" prevent you from meeting this man in person, try HARD to regain your balance and stay friends. Although you think you know him, until you finally meet in person, you really don't. Even if you confirmed he works in jewelry design, he may still be hiding something from you. Often when a significant other keeps making excuses not to meet, there's a good reason for it and not always what you want to hear.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 LP player
5 Dernier
8 Nullify
12 Grand tale
13 Hostel
14 Lunch hour
15 Pole near a ship's bow
17 Capri, for one
18 Buddy
19 Left a good impression?
21 '90s candidate
24 Manitoba tribe
25 Big-screen format
26 Sprints
30 Texter's "Enough already!"
31 Tender spots
32 "Top Hat" studio
33 30 minutes after the hour

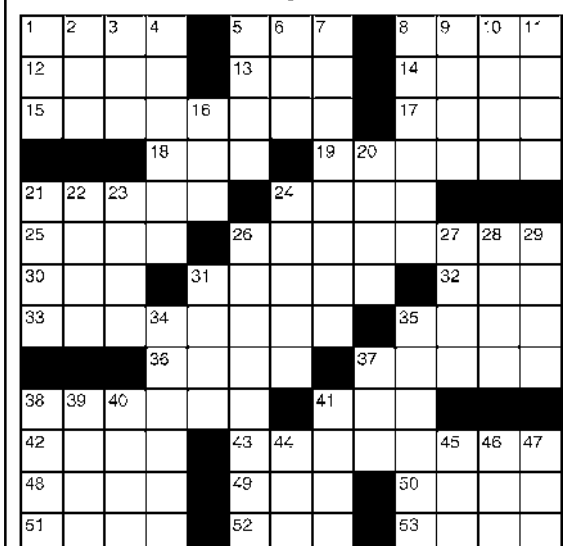
DOWN

35 Nile
36 Scarce
37 Displayed
38 Vacation at sea
41 Water tester
42 Honker
43 Sad
48 "It's not — deal!"
49 Sushi fish
50 Handle
51 Rx amount
52 Dress (up)
53 Japanese noodles

2 Wall St. debut
3 Fragrant tree
4 Fridge
5 Pisa farewell
6 ICU pros
7 Place to surf
8 Relief org. for kids
9 Snack
10 Hand (out)
11 Linear, for short
16 "The A-Team" actor
20 Heroine in a Hardy title
21 Essence
22 Austen novel
23 Banister
24 Talk a blue streak?
26 Reacted with loud laughter
27 Woody's son
28 Distort
29 Animated figure
31 Relaxing resorts
34 Kind of benefit
35 Cash alternatives
37 Junior
38 Sudan neighbor
39 Sci-fi prefix
40 "Topaz" author
41 Tiny branch
44 Discoverer's call
45 Year in Spain
46 Weep
47 TV schedule abbr.

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterday's answer 4-6



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tokio Myers, 37; Candace Cameron Bure, 45; Zach Braff, 46; Paul Rudd, 52.

Happy Birthday: Set your sights on excitement. Be innovative, believe in yourself and do what it takes to achieve happiness. Put your heart and soul into life, love and being the best you can be. The rewards will be outstanding, and the satisfaction you receive will encourage you to embrace the future with optimism. Love and self-improvement are favored. Your numbers are 9, 16, 23, 31, 36, 40, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Call on those you trust for input. Running your ideas by people who offer encouragement along with common sense will help you navigate your way through any pitfalls you encounter. Fitness, personal growth and romance are favored. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Keep your thoughts to yourself until you have a clear picture of how you want to proceed. A change made in haste will be met with obstacles that result in sensitive implications. Thorough research will eliminate negative results. Moderation is encouraged. **

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't waste time. Size up your situation and make things happen. A chance to get ahead is heading your way, and preparation will help build the confidence you need to dazzle anyone making an offer. Personal improvement adds to your appeal. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Concentrate on what you need to do to succeed. Refuse to let personal matters interfere

with your professional responsibilities. Focus on contracts, money and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. A risk will take its toll physically and financially. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Press people for answers. Use your communication skills to your advantage. Get the lowdown, and make decisions based on facts from the conversations you have. A partnership that can help you advance looks promising. Romance is favored. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take a virtual class or set up an online interview. Take action if you want to bring about change. Don't make excuses when it's up to you to make things happen. Putting the blame elsewhere won't help you reach your goal. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take care of responsibilities, and free up time to enjoy yourself with someone you love. How you use time and space will make a difference to your mental and emotional well-being. Don't make unnecessary purchases. Fitness and physical improvements are favored. *****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Put everything in place before you leap into action. Understanding what's possible will help you avoid a costly mistake. An innovative plan will require a strict budget to avoid overspending. Take care of domestic responsibilities first. **

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): An emotional matter will cause you to overreact if you're not careful. Size up whatever situation you face, and put a strategy in place that will eliminate outside interference. Focus on home

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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and family. Romance is in the stars. ****

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll face opposition if you initiate a change without going through the proper channels. Look for a positive way to get others on board, and you'll get the support and assistance you need to get things done your way. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't let what others do cause stress. Focus on what you can do to add to your security. A moneymaking opportunity looks promising. Don't miss out because you've taken on responsibilities that don't belong to you. Clear your calendar and proceed. ****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Keep your plans a secret, and you'll avoid a disagreement. Do something energetic if you feel stressed or anxious. Don't make a premature move based on an emotional situation. Time is on your side. Wait and watch before making a move. ***

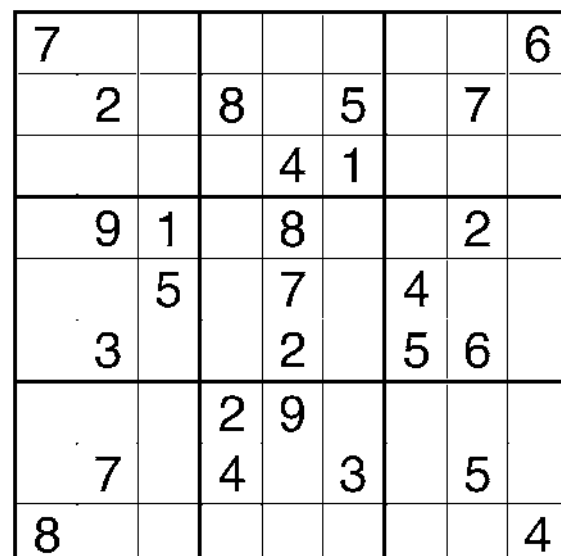
Birthday Baby: You are optimistic, ambitious and intelligent. You are persistent and friendly.

☼: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



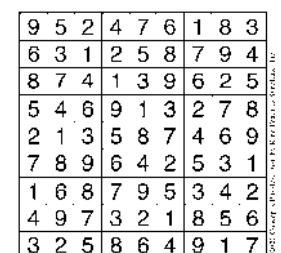
Difficulty Level ★★

4/06

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★

1/07

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backwards. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

CLORIS LEACHMAN (1926-2021)

Solution: 13 letters

L M N O T T O F O R G E T A M
E A O A C O M E D Y X A L A G
T R S R R Y D I S S A C W D R
T Y D T G R N O L R A M N R I
U T N N P A A T E P A A B A S
C Y U A H I N T R W L A N K E
E L L Y D O C T O R A T E S N D
S E G R O E G T A R D F S E L
U R N B B N E G U E W I I B A
O M E J U D Y E I R M L L R N
H O L O T I F M C R E M L A A
T O Y H G A E B A I L S Y N B
T R R E H C T I W D F S H D E
U E F I L F O S T C A F P O L
N I E T S N E K N A R F O E W

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Adam, Anabel, Beach, Branco, Bryan, Butch, Cassidy, Cher, Comedy, D'nah, Doctorate, Drake, Emmy, England, Facts of Life, Films, Frankenstein, Galaxy, Garland, George, Girls, Griselda, Judy, Las: Picture Show, Lettuce, Marlon, Mary Tyler Moore, Maw Maw, Morgan, Narrator, Not To Forget, Nutt House, Office, PETA, Phyllis, Witch, Young

Yesterday's Answer: Sprinkled

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 47 through 60 order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Clippers rout short-handed Lakers, end 2-game skid



LOS ANGELES (AP) — Marcus Morris scored 22 points and the Los Angeles Clippers dominated the short-handed Lakers in a 104-86 victory on Sunday to end a two-game skid.

Kawhi Leonard had 19 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists, and Paul George added 16 points for the Clippers.

"We set the tone early defensively, we were physical and got into bodies," Clippers coach Tyronn Lue said.

The Lakers trailed the entire game in which they were without injured All-Star duo LeBron James and Anthony Davis, as well as Andre Drummond and Wesley Matthews. They've dropped six of nine.

Montrezl Harrell led the Lakers with 19 points against his old team. Marc Gasol was the only starter in double figures with 11 points.

Kyle Kuzma's shooting typified the Lakers' offensive woes. He was held to six points as one of four starters who combined to shoot 12 of 41.

"We got to play the right way on the offensive end," Kuzma said. "Defensively, we'll be all right. Offensively, we got to find ways to play together. Can't win games scoring in the 80s and 90s. Got to find ways to incorporate everyone."

The Clippers built a double-digit lead midway through the second that the Lakers never reduced to single digits the rest of the way.

"Credit the Clippers' defense," Lakers coach Frank Vogel said. "They got up into us and we didn't handle their pressure at all and we had a tough shooting night. We got to play through their pressure and physicality better than we did."

Five different Clippers powered a 12-3 run to start the third, with George's 3-pointer capping the spurt that created their largest lead of 24 points. They matched that lead later in the quarter on a 3-pointer by Luke Kennard, who scored 12 of his 15 points in the fourth.

The Clippers stretched their lead to 20 points in the second, running off 10 in a row that ended with back-to-back 3-pointers by Marcus Morris.

The Clippers raced to a 13-2 lead to open the game, making their first six shots. Markief Morris scored the Lakers' first seven points.

Grizzlies 116, 76ers 100

In Philadelphia, Grayson Allen had 11 of his 15 points during a game-changing third quarter, lifting Memphis over short-handed Philadelphia, which was without All-Star center Joel Embiid.

Dillon Brooks scored 17



AP
Los Angeles Clippers forward Marcus Morris Sr. reacts after scoring against the Los Angeles Lakers during the first half of an NBA basketball game Sunday, April 4, 2021, in Los Angeles.

points and Jonas Valanciunas had 16 points and 12 rebounds for the Grizzlies, who began play ninth in the Western Conference. Memphis had seven players in double-figures.

Tobias Harris scored 21 points for the 76ers, who have played 11 of their last 12 games without Embiid.

Embiid returned from a 10-game absence due to a bone bruise in his left knee in Saturday night's 122-113 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves, but he didn't play in the second game of a back-to-back in order to recover from that outing.

Pelicans 122, Rockets 115

In Houston, Lonzo Ball had 27 points and a career-high eight 3-pointers, and New Orleans beat Houston to end a two-game skid.

Ball was on fire early, making all four of his 3-point attempts in the first quarter in his return after missing seven games with a hip injury. He cooled off after that and didn't hit from long range again until the third quarter, when he made two. He had nine assists, and his 27 points tied a season-best on a night he outdid his previous career mark of seven

3s, which he'd accomplished four times.

Kelly Olynyk had a season-high 26 points in his second 20-point game in the five games since he was traded to Houston from Miami. The Rockets lost their fourth straight.

The Pelicans had a six-point lead with about 2 1/2 minutes left in the third, but the Rockets scored the last nine points of the period, with 3s from D.J. Wilson and D.J. Augustin to take a 92-89 lead into the fourth quarter.

Ball's big night came in a game where all five starters

finished with at least 10 points. Eric Bledsoe had 19, James Johnson added 18, Jaxson Hayes had 11, and Steven Adams had 12 with 11 rebounds.

"I was just proud of the guys," Ball said. "We all played hard. No matter what was going on out there, we banded together as a team and got the win."

Bulls 115, Nets 107

In Chicago, Nikola Vucevic had 22 points and 13 rebounds, Zach LaVine added 25 points and Chicago beat Brooklyn to snap a six-game losing streak.

Tomas Satoransky had a sea-

son-high 19 points and 11 assists as Chicago won for the first time since acquiring Vucevic before the trade deadline.

Kyrie Irving had 24 points and 15 assists to lead short-handed Brooklyn, which played without James Harden and Kevin Durant. Jeff Green added 21 off the bench. The Nets had won five straight and 10 of 12.

Hawks 117, Warriors 111

In Atlanta, Clint Capela had 24 points and 18 rebounds, Danilo Gallinari scored 25 points and Atlanta beat Golden State for its third straight win.

Stephen Curry and Draymond Green returned after injuries forced both to miss an embarrassing blowout against Toronto on Friday. The Warriors were a different team, but they still couldn't close out the Hawks.

Curry, returning from a tailbone injury, had 37 points as the Warriors lost their third straight and seventh in the last eight games.

Celtics 116, Hornets 86

In Boston, Jayson Tatum had 22 points and eight rebounds, and Boston blew past short-handed Charlotte.

Evan Fournier had four 3-pointers and 17 points. Robert Williams finished with 16 points and eight rebounds to help Boston post its second straight victory.

Terry Rozier led Charlotte with 22 points and seven assists. Devonte' Graham added 11 points. The 30-point loss is the Hornets' worst of the season.

Charlotte was without LaMelo Ball (fractured right wrist), Malik Monk (sprained right ankle) and Gordon Hayward, who went on the injured list Friday after he sprained his right foot during a win at Indiana.

Nuggets 119, Magic 109

In Denver, Aaron Gordon scored 24 points against his former team, rallying Denver past Orlando.

Gordon scored Denver's first dozen points, then helped the Nuggets erase an 18-point halftime deficit for their 14th win in 17 games and their 10th straight over the Magic.

Jamal Murray added 22 points and Michael Porter Jr. 20 for Denver, which got 17 points, 16 assists and nine rebounds from Nikola Jokic. Chuma Okeke and Terrence Ross led Orlando with 19 points each.

Holiday, Bucks ink 4-year extension worth at least \$134M

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Milwaukee Bucks guard Jrue Holiday followed up his biggest game of the season by making a long-term commitment to his new team.

Holiday agreed to a four-year contract extension that would be worth at least \$134 million if he exercises his option for the final season. The Bucks announced the agreement Sunday.

"I'm a Buck for life," Holiday said in a video posted on the Bucks' Twitter account. "Just know that I'm glad to be a part of Bucks Nation. Let's do some big things, man. I'm really excited."

The announcement came one day after Holiday had a season-high 33 points as well as 11 assists and seven rebounds in a 129-128 victory at Sacramento. Holiday's performance enabled the Bucks to withstand the absence of reigning two-time MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo, who sat out with a sore left knee.

The move represents the latest step in the Bucks' heavy investment in their trio of Holiday, Antetokounmpo and

two-time All-Star Khris Middleton as the franchise chases its first NBA title since 1971.

The Bucks posted the NBA's best regular-season record each of the last two seasons but lost in the Eastern Conference finals in 2019 and in the second round of the playoffs last year. Entering Sunday, Milwaukee owned a 32-17 record and was two games behind Philadelphia and Brooklyn in the East standings.

"Jrue is one of the top guards in the NBA and we are thrilled to sign him to this extension," Bucks general manager Jon Horst said in a statement. "Adding him to our team has made us better on both ends of the floor. He's an elite defender and an impactful offensive player with the ability to score, shoot and facilitate."

Holiday had a \$26.7 million player option remaining for the 2021-21 season as part of the five-year, \$126 million contract he signed with the New Orleans Pelicans in July 2017.

Under the terms of this deal, Holiday declines that option but receives base sala-

ries of \$30.1 million next season, \$32.4 million in 2022-23 and \$34.7 million in 2023-24. He also holds a \$37 million option for 2024-25.

There are incentives that could push the total value of Holiday's deal to nearly \$160 million.

The Bucks' investment in Holiday, Antetokounmpo and Middleton—even without incentives—totals \$105 million in 2021-22, \$113 million in 2022-23 and would be \$120 million in 2023-24 if Middleton exercises a player option he has for that season.

The 30-year-old Holiday is averaging 17 points, 5.4 assists, 4.6 rebounds and 1.8 steals this year in his first season with the Bucks. He ranks second in the league in steals per game.

He missed 10 games earlier this season after testing positive for COVID-19 but has come on strong lately.

Holiday has scored at least 22 points in four straight games. Since the All-Star break, he has averaged 20.8 points and has shot 54.1% overall and 44.3% from

3-point range.

The only other NBA players averaging at least 16 points, five assists, four rebounds and 1.5 steals this season are Miami's Jimmy Butler, Denver's Nikola Jokic and Toronto's Fred VanVleet.

Milwaukee paid a heavy price to acquire Holiday in the offseason as it attempted to strengthen the team in hopes of getting a long-term commitment from Antetokounmpo, who signed a five-year super-max extension worth a reported \$228 million in December.

The Bucks gave up guards Eric Bledsoe and George Hill, first-round draft choice R.J. Hampton and two future first-round draft picks as part of the four-team trade. They also acquired second-round pick Sam Merrill and gave New Orleans the right to swap two future first-round picks as part of the deal.

"Them giving up all the pieces that they did, it really, really made me feel like they wanted me to be here," Holiday said shortly after the trade. "That's always a good feeling."

Ohtani's 2-way play, Walsh's walkoff HR lift Angels



ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)— Shohei Ohtani

both hit the hardest homer and threw the hardest pitch by a starter in the majors this season in an extraordinary two-way performance for the Los Angeles Angels on Sunday night.

Ohtani pitched and hit in the same game for the first time since moving to the majors, and the Japanese star had memorable moments in both of his endeavors against the Chicago White Sox.

Ohtani hit 100.6 mph with a fastball in the first inning, and his 451-foot homer on the first pitch he saw as the Angels' No. 2 hitter moments later went 115 mph off the bat. Those are both tops this season among starting pitchers and hitters—and Ohtani had a 101.1-mph fastball later.

Ohtani went 1 for 3 at the plate with his massive homer and a hard-hit lineout off Chicago starter Dylan Cease, showing off the powerful swing that makes him the Angels' everyday designated hitter.

Ohtani also was excellent in the first four innings of his first mound start of the season, holding Chicago scoreless and allowing just one hit. But his frequent control problems intensified in the fifth, and the White Sox tied it 3-3 during a two-out rally featuring two of Ohtani's five walks and a wild pitch.

But Ohtani apparently escaped injury when he left the game after a collision at home plate with AL MVP José Abreu, who undercut him while sliding home to score the tying run. Angels GM Perry Minasian said Ohtani has only general soreness and wasn't removed from the game due to an injury.

Ohtani is just the third pitcher over the last 45 seasons to hit for himself in a game with the designated hitter available. He's also the first pitcher to bat second for a team since Jack Dunleavy did it for the St. Louis Cardinals on Sept. 7, 1903.

"Don't you love it?" Angels manager Joe Maddon asked before the game. "This was him deciding that he could do this. ... When he came over, this is what he wanted to do. This is why he signed up. Everybody clamored for him because of this particular reason, so I think it's important that we give him this opportunity to do that and see how it plays out."

No Angels pitcher had ever hit for himself in a game with the designated hitter available since the rule was implemented in the AL in 1973.

Despite his control woes, Ohtani nearly escaped the fifth inning when he struck out Yoan Moncada with the bases loaded, but catcher Max Stassi



let the pitch get past him for a passed ball and also made a throwing error trying to get Moncada at first.

Abreu then collided with Ohtani while the pitcher covered home plate, and Ohtani was down on the dirt for a long moment before walking gingerly to the dugout.

Ohtani yielded two hits with seven strikeouts in his longest start since 2018. Just one of Chicago's three runs was earned.

Ohtani has been solid as the Angels' designated hitter for most of the past two seasons, but the 2018 AL Rookie of the Year is attempting a full-time return to the starting rotation. Ohtani made just two starts over the past two years after undergoing Tommy John surgery.

The Angels previously have held Ohtani out of games on the day before and the day after he pitches, but Ohtani also played against Chicago on Saturday night, going 1 for 4 as the designated hitter. The Angels are trying new ways to focus Ohtani's mental approach in his difficult job, and Maddon thinks being in the batting lineup might help his pitcher.

"Theoretically, I thought that would be a residue positive component of him being able to do both," Maddon said. "Just go pitch, then go hit, go pitch, go hit, just play baseball. ... I do believe conversationally, it does help him doing both."

An AL team hadn't declined to use the DH in a game in which it was available since May 17, 2009, when Maddon's Tampa Bay Rays did it accidentally. Maddon submitted a lineup card with an error, listing two third basemen—which meant Andy Sonnanstine had to hit for himself while Evan Longoria wasn't allowed to play.

The prior time an AL team declined the designated hitter

was Sept. 23, 1976, when Ken Brett of the Chicago White Sox batted eighth. The only other time it happened since 1976 was on June 30, 2016, when San Francisco's Madison Bumgarner batted for himself against Oakland in an interleague game.

Ohtani is the first player to make starts as both a pitcher and a non-pitcher in three different seasons since Bobby Reis did it for the Brooklyn Dodgers and the Boston Bees in the mid-1930s.

Phillies 2, Braves 1

In Philadelphia, Alec Bohm hit a tiebreaking single in the eighth inning and Zach Eflin gave Philadelphia another strong start to complete a three-game sweep of defending NL East champion Atlanta.

Philadelphia's starting trio of Aaron Nola, Zack Wheeler and Eflin (1-0) surrendered three runs, 11 hits and one walk in 20 2/3 innings against an Atlanta lineup that led the majors in 2020 with 556 hits.

The Phillies bullpen, which posted a 7.06 ERA in 2020, didn't yield a run in 7 1/3 innings in the set.

Philadelphia regained the lead in the eighth as Rhys Hoskins, Bryce Harper and Bohm hit consecutive singles off Chris Martin (0-1).

Hector Neris got his first save.

Reds 12, Cardinals 1

In Cincinnati, Nick Castellanos came out swinging with his bat a day after being ejected for inciting a bench-clearing melee, hitting a three-run homer off Carlos Martinez (0-1) and triple to finish the series 6 for 11 with five RBIs.

Tyler Naquin also a three-run shot for the Reds, who won two in a row to take the opening matchup of NL Central teams that earned wildcard spots last season.

Jeff Hoffman (1-0), ac-

quired from the Colorado Rockies in an off-season trade, gave up a just run and three hits through five innings with six strikeouts.

Indians 9, Tigers 3

In Detroit, Jordan Luplow hit a two-run homer to cap a four-run seventh, and Cleveland overcame a home run by Akil Baddoo on the first pitch of his first major league at-bat.

Cleveland avoided a sweep in Detroit after falling behind 3-1 in the third. Yu Chang put the Indians up 4-3 with a two-run single off Daniel Norris (0-1) in the seventh, and Luplow added his homer one out later.

Baddoo was taken by the Tigers with the third pick of the 2020 winter meeting draft of unprotected players. The 22-year-old, who had never played above Class A, gave his bat a little flip after hitting an opposite-field drive to left in the third off Aaron Civale (1-0).

Orioles 11, Red Sox 3

In Boston, Boston dropped to 0-3 at Fenway Park for the first time since 1948 and the second time ever as Trey Mancini and Austin Hays hit two-run doubles during a seven-run third inning.

Cedric Mullins went 5 for 5 with three doubles and walk for the Orioles, collecting four of hits in the initial four innings. Maikel Franco added a first-inning, two-run double, helping Baltimore to its first three-game sweep at Fenway since Aug. 25-27, 2017.

Boston is coming off a 24-36 record that was its worst winning percentage since 1965.

Baltimore left-hander Bruce Zimmermann (1-0) gave up three runs and four hits in six innings with five strikeouts and one walk for his first victory.

Boston starter Garrett Richards (0-1) was chased with no outs and after loading the bases in the third. He allowed

six runs and seven hits.

Blue Jays 3, Yankees 1

In New York, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. and Randal Grichuk homered off Domingo Germán (0-1), who allowed three runs over three innings in his first appearance since Sept. 18, 2019, after serving a suspension under Major League Baseball's domestic violence policy. Toronto won two of three.

T.J. Zeuch pitched four scoreless innings, left-hander Ryan Borucki (1-0) got two outs to escape a jam in the sixth and Julian Merryweather got his second save with a perfect ninth.

Cubs 4, Pirates 4

In Chicago, Zach Davies (1-0) permitted two runs and four hits in 5 2/3 innings in his Chicago debut against short-handed Pittsburgh.

Ian Happ homered and Kris Bryant reached three times as Chicago earned its second straight win after losing on opening day.

Pittsburgh played without third baseman Ke'Bryan Hayes, placed on the 10-day injured list with a strained left wrist.

Mitch Keller (0-1) allowed three runs, two hits and four walks over three innings on his 25th birthday.

Rangers 7, Royals 3

In Kansas City, Nate Lowe three-run homer in the third for Texas, which avoided a sweep, and a team-record nine RBIs in the first three games of the season, a Texas record.

Isiah Kiner-Falefa also drove in three runs.

Jordan Lyles (1-0) gave up two runs in 5 2/3 innings, struck out eight and allowed five hits.

Brady Singer (0-1) gave up five earned runs, five hits and three walks in 3 1/3 innings.

Twins 8, Brewers 2

In Milwaukee, Miguel Sanó

Los Angeles Angels starting pitcher Shohei Ohtani (17) and catcher Max Stassi (33) bumps fists as they walk to the dugout after the top of the second inning of a baseball game against the Chicago White Sox Sunday, April 4, 2021, in Anaheim, Calif.

and Mitch Garver homered to back up Michael Pineda (1-0), who gave up just one unearned run and four hits in five innings.

Luis Arraez went 3 of 3 with a pair of walks as the Twins took two of three. Max Kepler and Sanó each drove in three runs.

Adrian Houser (0-1) struck out four while allowing two runs, four hits and two walks in five innings.

Dodgers 4, Rockies 2

In Denver, Julio Urias (1-0) gave up one run and three hits over seven-plus innings in the longest start of the 24-year-old left-hander's major league career. He struck out six and walked one.

Austin Gomber (0-1) walked seven, allowing three runs—one earned—and one hit in three innings.

Los Angeles scored three runs without a hit in the first, and Will Smith homered leading off the eighth. Garrett Hampson had a two-run double in the bottom of the eighth.

Astros 9, Athletics 2

In Oakland, Jason Castro homered in his first start with Houston since as a free agent following the 2016 season, helping complete a four-game sweep.

Dusty Baker tied Bill McKeechne for 14th among managers with 1,896 wins.

Kyle Tucker and Chas McCormick also homered for the Astros, off to their best start since 2001. Yuli Gurriel had three hits and two RBIs.

Brandon Bielak (1-0) pitched 4 2/3 hitless innings of relief. Sean Manaea (0-1) gave up five runs, six hits and three walks in 4 2/3 innings as Oakland dropped to 0-4 for the first time since losing five straight at the start of 1987.

Diamondbacks 3, Padres 1

In San Diego, rookie Taylor Widener (1-0) held San Diego to three hits over six scoreless innings to win his first big league start and David Peralta hit a two-run triple as Arizona avoided a four-game sweep.

Fernando Tatis Jr. hit his first homer of the season with two outs in the ninth, off Chris Devenski, who got the save. Tatis also made his fifth error at shortstop.

Chris Paddack (0-1) gave up three runs—two earned,—four hits and three walks in four innings.

Stanford holds off Arizona, 54-53, to win women's NCAA title

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Tara VanDerveer hugged each of her Stanford players as they climbed the ladder to cut down the nets, capping a taxing whirlwind journey and ending an exhausting championship drought for the Cardinal.

It took 29 years, that included 10 weeks on the road this season because of the coronavirus, for VanDerveer and the Cardinal to be crowned NCAA women's basketball champions again.

"We had some special karma going for us," VanDerveer said. "Had the comeback against Louisville, dodge a bullet against South Carolina, dodge bullet against Arizona. Sometimes you have to be lucky. I'll admit it, we were very fortunate to win."

Haley Jones scored 17 points and Stanford beat Arizona 54-53, giving the Cardinal and their Hall of Fame coach their first national championship since 1992 on Sunday night.

"Getting through all the things we got through, we're excited to win the COVID championship," VanDerveer said. "The other one was not quite as close, the last one. But we're really excited. No one knows the score, no one knows who scored, it's a national championship."

It wasn't a masterpiece by any stretch with both teams struggling to score and missing easy layups and shots, but Stanford did just enough to pull off the win — it's second straight by a point.

Stanford (31-2) built a nine-point lead in the fourth quarter before Arizona (21-6) cut it to 51-50 on star guard Aari McDonald's 3-point.

After a timeout, Jones answered with a three-point play with 2:24 left. That would be Stanford's last basket of the game. McDonald got the



Arizona guard Aari McDonald, left, lies on the court after missing a shot at the end of the championship game against Stanford in the women's Final Four NCAA college basketball tournament, Sunday, April 4, 2021, at the Alamodome in San Antonio. Stanford won 54-53.

Wildcats with 54-53 with 36.6 seconds left converting three of four free throws.

"I just owe it all to my teammates, they have confidence in me when I don't have confidence in myself," said Jones, who was honored as the tournament's Most Outstanding Player. "I saw they needed me to come up big and I did."

The Cardinal, after another timeout couldn't even get a shot off, giving Arizona one last chance with 6.1 seconds left, but McDonald's contested shot from the top of the key at the buzzer bounced off the rim.

"I got denied hard. I tried to turn the corner, they sent three at me. I took a tough, contested shot and it didn't fall,"

4-1 victory over Colin Ramsey and Grace Choi.

The winning duo swept the semis with a 4-2, 4-2 victory over David Kwon and Irin Chung who gained entrance into the Final Four after a 4-1, 5-4 triumph against Isaac Heo and Hye Jin Eliot in the top half.

Ramsey and Choi dominated the bottom half after a successful semifinal match against Sean Lee and Serin Chung. Despite the slow start at 0-4, the pair turned the tables in their favor in the two following sets, 4-1, 10-7.

Lee and Chung managed to bag third place with a 4-2, 4-2 victory over Kwon and Chung.

The 2021 SIS Student Council Tennis Tournament was sanctioned by the Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association.

said McDonald, who fell near midcourt, slumped in disbelief while the Cardinal celebrated.

It's been quite a journey for VanDerveer and the Cardinal this season. The team was forced on the road for nearly 10 weeks because of the coronavirus, spending 86 days in hotels during this nomadic season.

"It was a long, very difficult journey being on the road, sleeping in hotels, living out of your bag. It's just a lot. You're on the bus, you're on planes all the time and there's just never really an end in sight so it's difficult," Jones said.

"But I think from that experience and losing on the road and dropping one at home I think it just really kind of grew this extra like chip on our shoulder almost."

The team didn't complain



and went about their business and now have another NCAA championship. Along the way the Hall of Fame coach earned her 1,099th career victory to pass Pat Summitt for the most all time in women's basketball history.

Now the 67-year-old coach has a third national title to go along with the ones she won in 1990 and 1992.

That moved her into a tie with Baylor's Kim Mulkey for third most all time behind Geno Auriemma and Summitt.

VanDerveer had many great teams between titles, including the ones led by Candice Wiggins and the Ogwumike sisters — Nneka and Chiney, but the Cardinal just couldn't end their season with that elusive win in the title game until Sunday night.

It was the first women's basketball championship for the Pac-12 since VanDerveer

and Stanford won the title in 1992. The last time a team from the conference was in the title game was 2010 when the Cardinal lost to UConn. That game was also played in the Alamodome — the site of every game in this tournament from the Sweet 16 through Sunday's championship game.

The entire NCAA Tournament was played in the San Antonio area because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

While Stanford had history on its side, Arizona has been building under coach Adia Barnes, who was the fourth Black woman to lead her team to the championship game, joining Carolyn Peck, Dawn Staley and C. Vivian Stringer. Peck and Staley won titles.

Barnes starred for the Wildcats as a player in the late 90s and came back to her alma mater five years ago. She guided the team to the WNIT title in

2019 and led them to their first NCAA title game ever. This was the team's first appearance in the NCAA Tournament since 2005—although the Wildcats would have made the NCAAs last season had it not been canceled by the coronavirus.

McDonald, who followed her coach from Washington as a transfer, has been a huge reason for the team's success. The 5-foot-6 guard struggled against the Cardinal, finishing with 22 points while going 5-for-20 from the field.

The Wildcats were trying to be only the fourth team to trail by double digits and win a championship.

These teams met twice during the regular season and Stanford rolled past Arizona both times, winning by double digits in each game.

This one came down to a final chance for the Wildcats, but they fell just one-point short.

TAN

From Page 20

fore losing the next, 0-4. Bradley and Chae redeemed themselves in the final set, 10-12.

Nam and Lee earned the last finals seat after conquering Xavier Lee and Maria Shim, 5-3, 4-1, in their matchup in the semis. Meanwhile, Lee and Shim managed to advance to the semis after a victorious quarterfinal where they triumphed over Jesse Sablan and Tiana Cabrera, 4-1, 4-1.

Lee and Shim lost their chance at a Top 3 finish after being beaten by Andrew Chung and Yebin Shin who took a 4-2, 4-1 victory over the pair.

CNMI Hall of Famer Jeff Race and Malika Miyawaki prevailed in the 5.0 mixed doubles division with a 4-1,

NCAA

From Page 20

Gonzaga Bulldogs, or the season's underdog, Baylor Bears?

"Since I watched the video clip of Jalen Suggs' dagger that gave Gonzaga the 93-90 win against UCLA in the Final Four, I would go for the Bulldogs. It's always great to win the championship in style... going unbeaten and getting your first-ever NCAA title."

— **Roselyn Monroyo**
Avid basketball fan

"I'm gonna go for Gonzaga, [Corey] Kispert and [Jalen]

Suggs form a dynamic backcourt. [Drew] Timme (19.0 points per game) has been a force throughout the tournament. But the Bears are more than capable as they are the best 3-point shooting team in the country."

— **Norman Del Rosario**
IT&E graphic artist

"Although I am a Creighton Blue Jays fan, I am rooting for the Zags as the only Jesuit school going into the championship. I predict Zags, 97-93."

— **Rep. Ivan Blanco**
CNMI Legislature

"I am rooting for the Bay-

lor Bears. I'm guessing the final score to be Baylor 75, Gonzaga 72. I'm rooting for Baylor for selfish reasons. One, I would rather Gonzaga not go undefeated and win the title; two, Baylor is a Baptist university and someone who I think highly of who had a big impact on my life received his degree from Baylor. I do not know anyone who went to Gonzaga personally. Also, if the Zags win, it will make it that much more difficult for my favorite team, Kentucky, to recruit."

— **Stephen Dame**
Saipan Community Church senior pastor

"As a Michigan alumni and a USC graduate student, it was a bummer to see both my teams go out in the Elite Eight. But for the national championship, I'm going with Baylor just because they've been the most consistent team in the tournament. Their average margin of victory during the tournament is 15.2 points, they're holding teams to 44% shooting, and they played strong in their Final Four game against Houston. Going with the Baylor Bears over the Zags."

— **Kevin Bautista**
Governor's Office press secretary



Clippers rout short-handed Lakers, end 2-game skid

PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune Sports

Ohtani's 2-way play, Walsh's walkoff HR lift Angels

PAGE 18



20 TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2021

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Tan, Aquino top SIS tournament

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Lydia Tan and Patrick Vincent Aquino topped the 2021 SIS Student Council Tennis Tournament 4.0 mixed doubles division last Sunday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.



Tan and Aquino clinched the title after a 5-3, 4-2 win over the husband-and-wife tandem of Dong Min Lee and Eun Kyoung Lee in the finals.

The eventual champions automatically advanced to the semifinals after getting a bye in the opening round. In the semis, Tan and Aquino came out on top with 4-0, 4-1 victory over Yuko Kamada and Quintin Ramsey, who reached the Final Four following a 5-3, 5-4 triumph against Ilan Bubba Grace Kellbach at the top half of the draw.

At the bottom half, the Lees



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES/CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lydia Tan, left, and Patrick Vincent Aquino, right, topped the 2021 SIS Student Council Tennis Tournament 4.0 mixed doubles division last Sunday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

advanced to the finals after a successful semifinal match against Derek Culp and Elizabeth Culp which they won in a score of 4-2, 4-2. Both the Lee and Culp duos gained ac-

cess to the semis after getting a bye in the opening of the quarterfinals.

Rounding up the Top 3 was Ramsey and Kamada who won via walkover.

Meanwhile, John Bradley and Hannah Chae came out victorious in the 3.0 mixed doubles division after edging Daniel Nam and Seo Hee Lee, 5-4, 4-2.

The division's title-holders advanced to the semis after a 4-1, 4-1 win over Jack Linden and Seiyul Hong in the quarterfinals. Bradley and Chae earned the first seat of the finals af-

ter a difficult semifinal battle against Andrew Chung and Yebin Shin in the top half. The duo took the first set, 4-0, be-

See TAN on Page 19



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jeff Race and Malika Miyawaki prevailed in the 5.0 mixed doubles division of the 2021 SIS Student Council Tennis Tournament last Sunday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

NCAA championship: Bulldogs or Bears?



Bautista



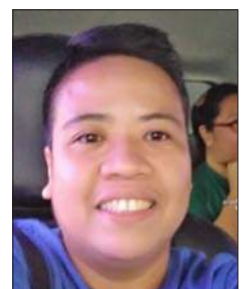
Blanco



Dame



Del Rosario



Monroyo

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Only one team will see its title drought end. Will it be Gonzaga University or Baylor University?

The Bulldogs will be gunning for their first NCAA championship in record fashion, as a victory over the Bears will not only give Gonzaga the crown, but also hand the team an

unbeaten record for the 2020-2021 season.

The Bulldogs hold a 31-0 record coming into today's finale and another win would tie them with coach Bob Knight's Indiana Hoosiers, which were the last NCAA squad to have clinched a title with an undefeated record when they defeated Michigan, 86-68, on March 29, 1976.



Baylor also wants a date with history by winning its first NCAA crown. It will only be the Bears' second attempt at bagging the championship after losing to the Kentucky Wildcats, 48-52, in the 1948 finals.

Baylor was among the favorites to top the NCAA in 2020, but the tournament was canceled due to the CO-

VID-19 pandemic. When the 2021 season pushed through, the Bears lived up to expectations and are using the called off March Madness season last year as motivation to win it all this time.

CNMI basketball fanatics take their picks, with both teams gunning for their first NCAA championships, will it be the season's undefeated

See NCAA on Page 19